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USSR Report

MILITARY AFFAIRS

No. 1811

COMMUNIST OF THE ARMED FORCES

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Except where indicated otherwise in the table of contents the following is a complete translation of the Russian-language semi-monthly journal KOMMUNIST VOORUZHENNYKH SIL, No 13, July 1983 (signed to press 20 June 83) and No 14, July 1983 (signed to press 4 July 83).

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Moscow KOMMUNIST VOORUZHENNYKH SIL in Russian No 13, Jul 83 pp 60-64

[Materials for reports and discussions on Air Force Day; author not given: "The Powerful Wings of the Motherland"]

[Text] USSR Air Force Day, established 50 years ago by a resolution of the Soviet of People's Commissars on 28 April 1933, has become in our country a traditional holiday for aviators and for all Soviet people.

On this day, our socialist motherland honors the builders and creators of modern aircraft, military aviators, workers of Aeroflot, sport pilots of DOSAAF and all those who, through their selfless labor, have strengthened and continue to strengthen our fatherland's Air Force.

The victory of the Great October opened up a new stage in the development of domestic aviation. Its creation and improvement are directly connected with the name of the founder and leader of the Communist Party and the Soviet state--Vladimir Il'ich Lenin. In the Red Air Force he wisely saw not only an important means of transportation and communication in peacetime, but also a powerful means of defending our revolutionary achievements.

Indeed, the foresight of the leader of the revolution, the burning enthusiasm and selfless labor of the people freed from the yoke of exploitation and the great organizational work of our party and the state were needed to create and gradually build up the power of domestic aviation amidst wartime hostilities, extreme devastation and starvation.

Vladimir Il'ich Lenin paid constant attention to questions regarding the technical equipping of the Red Army and supported in every way possible those scientific discoveries which helped to strengthen the defensive might of the young Soviet state. Vladimir Il'ich gave personal orders for the appropriation of funds for the Odessa, Sevastopol and Moscow aircraft plants. Upon his order in December 1918, the Central Institute of Aerohydrodynamics (TsAGI) was formed which became a great scientific research center. Aviation plants and workshops were rebuilt, and the training of aviation personnel from among the workers' ranks commenced at the 1st Moscow, Zaraysk and Yegoryevsk aviation schools, the Petrograd Military School for Aerial Observers and the Naval School of Aviation (in Samara). In 1920, the country's first higher aviation educational institution was opened, and in 1922 it was transformed into the Air Force Academy.

In the years of the Civil War, our military aviation conducted aggressive combat operations in defense of the young Soviet republic. In the summer and fall of 1918, Soviet pilots participated in the battles for Tsaritsyn, where the organization of cooperation between aviation and the ground troops got its start. In the battles for Kazan in August and September 1918, the principle of mass utilization of aviation was realized for the first time. The major efforts of aviation were concentrated on those fronts where the greatest danger threatened.

The concern for the development of aviation and the party's profound understanding of its role in the defense of the socialist fatherland brought about an unprecedented patriotic upsurge on the part of flying personnel. In battles with the enemy, our aviators displayed courage and heroism. A total of 219 Red Air Force pilots and aerial observers were awarded the Order of the Red Banner. Of this number, 16 received the order twice, while S. Monastirev, I. Pavlov, P. Mezheraup, Ye. Ukhin and Ya. Moiseyev received the order three times.

The successful realization of Lenin's plan for the building of socialism and the creation of a stable industrial and scientific-technical base became the foundation for the development of the USSR Air Force and made it possible for our country to become a mighty aviation power in a historically short period of time. A patriotic movement under the motto "Working People, Build the Air Force!" was very popular in the Soviet Union, and thousands of patriots took part in building aviation plants.

In March 1923, a mass voluntary society of friends of the Air Force was established in our country. At the same time, a campaign was begun to gather the workers' resources for the construction of aircraft.

A special place in the formation of Soviet aviation was occupied by the Ninth Komsomol Congress which, in the name of three million Komsomol members, resolved on 25 January 1931 to take under their patronage the Air Force of the Workers' and Peasants' Red Army. This decision played an important role not only in the technical re-equipping of aviation, but also in the training of qualified flying personnel from among the best Komsomol members and the leading young people.

In the years of the first five-year plans, Soviet pilots carried out a number of outstanding long-range flights in domestic aircraft and set more than a third of the world's aviation records. The people will always remember the heroic epic rescue of the survivors of Chelyuskin's expedition in 1934. Among the participants in this rescue were pilots A. Lyapidevskiy, S. Levanevskiy, V. Molokov, N. Kamanin, M. Slepnev, M. Vodop'yanov and I. Doronin--the first in our country to be awarded the lofty title of Hero of the Soviet Union. In 1937, the entire world followed with admiration the notable flight of Chkalov's crew across the North Pole to America. Pilots and Heroes of the Soviet Union M. Gromov, V. Kokkinaki and A. Yumashev, navigators S. Danilin and I. Spirin and women-pilots V. Grizodubova, P. Osipenko and M. Raskova brought fame to our fatherland as a great aviation power. During these years grew a brilliant galaxy of masters of advanced flying and aerial combat--S. Suprun, A. Serov, A. Anisimov, V. Stepanchenok, P. Stefanovskiy, V. Yevseyev and others.

On the basis of the achievements of science and the constantly developing aviation industry, the Air Force grew quantitatively and changed qualitatively. At the end of the 1930's, the TsAGI was practically completely reorganized, and new design bureaus were created. In 1939-1940, under the supervision of aircraft designers

S. V. Il'yushin, S. A. Lavochkin, A. I. Mikoyan, V. M. Petlyakov and A. S. Yakovlev, the new Yak-1, MiG-3 and LaGG-3 fighters, the Il-2 ground-attack aircraft, the Pe-2 dive-bomber and other aircraft were built. In the first half of 1941, the aircraft industry produced about 2,000 of these new types of fighters, 458 bombers and 249 ground-attack aircraft. The development of the Air Force was supported by the ever-expanding network of training institutions in which aviation personnel were instructed. On the eve of the Great Patriotic War, 3 aviation academies and 78 flight and 18 technical schools and institutes were operating.

The growing combat might of Soviet aviation contributed to a great degree to the crushing defeat of the Japanese invaders at Lake Khasan and at Khalkhin-Gol. Soviet volunteers demonstrated the high moral-political and combat qualities of airmen and the skilful mastery of their aircraft in battles for the freedom and independence of the Spanish and Chinese peoples. The might of domestic aviation, the courage and valor of our pilots and their selfless love for the motherland and their dedication to the Leninist party and the ideals of communism were displayed in battles with the German Fascist invaders.

The war thrust upon the Soviet Union by German Fascism was the greatest armed action of the shock forces of worldwide imperialism against socialism and was one of the severest tests our motherland has ever endured. The Soviet people and its Armed Forces courageously entered into mortal combat with the aggressor. They defended the freedom and independence of our socialist motherland, carried out a great mission of liberation and fulfilled their patriotic and international duty with honor.

Our glorious Air Force made a great contribution to the achievement of this historic victory. Despite the great difficulties encountered during the initial period of the Great Patriotic War, Soviet aviation maintained its capability for aggressive action. Eloquent testimony to this fact is given by the losses suffered by Hitler's aviation--1,284 aircraft in a period of less than a month, from 22 June to 19 July 1941.

The Soviet Air Force, while supporting the ground forces and carrying out constant strikes against Fascist aviation in the air and on the ground, gradually deprived the enemy of his temporary advantage. Our pilots fought heroically with the hated enemy, boldly engaged enemy forces that outnumbered them many times over and spared neither blood nor lives for the sake of victory. In the Battle for Moscow, for example, Soviet pilots flew five, six or even more combat sorties per day and successfully routed the Fascist invaders.

Under the guidance of the Headquarters of the Supreme Command, a campaign gigantic in scale commenced in the battles for Moscow, Stalingrad, the Caucasus, the Kuban and Kursk in an effort to attain supremacy in the air. This was done in the interest of successfully carrying out strategic operations and putting an end to the war as a whole. By 1943, thanks to the selfless efforts of the Soviet people in the rear areas, the Air Force received first-class aircraft which, with respect to their performance, tactical qualities and armament, were superior to the aircraft of Fascist Germany.

This year marks the 40th anniversary of the battles for the Kursk Bulge. As a result of these fierce actions and battles of unprecedented scale and intensity, the strategic initiative was conclusively wrested from the enemy.

Many Soviet fighter and ground-attack pilots distinguished themselves in repulsing the powerful onslaught of the Fascists' aviation. Here the master of aerial combat, Ivan Kozhedub, began compiling the kills credited to him in combat. It was here that one of our pilots, Guards Sr Lt A. Gorovets, performed an unparalleled feat. Encountering a large group of enemy planes in the air, he boldly attacked them and, before the eyes of our infantry and tank crews, shot down nine Fascist aircraft, one after another.

The high degree of valor, remarkable combat skill and boundless dedication to the motherland were vividly displayed in the actions of Soviet pilots who selflessly assisted our ground and naval forces in battles with the enemy. Our aviation was a faithful buttress in realizing the plans of the Supreme Command. With the achievement of air superiority, favorable conditions were created for our ground and naval forces for the conduction of large-scale strategic operations of groups of fronts, and for the Air Force for a more decisive massing of forces and the carrying out of strikes against the enemy in the form of air attacks.

In our Air Force's most aggressive actions, large groups of enemy troops were routed near Bobruysk, Minsk, Korsun-Shevchenkivskiy, Kishinev, Breslau, Koenigsberg and Berlin. Year by year, the force of the strikes of Soviet aviation grew. While 200 to 500 aircraft took part in each operation of 1941, up to several thousand participated in the years 1943-1945, and up to 7,500 took part in the Berlin operation of 1945.

During the war years, the Air Force carried out more than three million combat sorties and fought hundreds of thousands of aerial engagements. The Fascists' aviation lost more than 100,000 aircraft during World War II, of which 77,000 were destroyed on the Soviet-German front.

Our naval pilots made a great contribution to the achievement of victory over the enemy. They are credited with sinking or damaging two-thirds of the enemy's ships. On the night of 8 August 1941, the Red Banner Baltic Fleet carried out the first bombing strike against Berlin. The naval pilots who distinguished themselves--Col Ye. Preobrazhenskiy and Captains V. Grechishnikov, A. Yefremov, M. Plotkin and P. Khokhlov--were awarded the high title of Hero of the Soviet Union.

The winged sons of the people, like all fighting men in the army and navy, displayed high moral-political and combat qualities in the struggle with hated Fascism. They boldly engaged forces that were numerically superior and, when the situation required, they used the weapon of the courageous and the fearless--ramming in the air. During the war years, our pilots rammed the enemy in the air more than 500 times, 17 of them for the second time. A. Khlobystov did it three times, and B. Kovzan four times. A female pilot and Lenin Komsomol pupil, Ye. Zelenko, carried out an in-flight ramming as well. More than 350 of our pilots and crews repeated the "fiery ram" of N. Gastello's crew.

The Communist Party and the Soviet Government have seen the true worth of the great feats of these aviators. For the successful execution of the missions assigned by command and the display of courage and valor in doing so, more than 200,000 military aviators were presented with medals and awards, and 2,420 were awarded the title of Hero of the Soviet Union. Of these, 65 were awarded this title twice,

while famous aces A. I. Pokryshkin and I. N. Kozhedub were awarded it three times each. A total of 897 units and formations were presented with orders of the USSR, 708 received honorary names and 228 were awarded Guards titles.

A most important role in mobilizing military aviators to crush the enemy was played by purposeful party-political work. It exerted a great influence upon the consciousness and feelings of the people, cultivated true patriots and internationalists, instilling in them a sacred hatred of the enemy, developed an offensive momentum and summoned the soldiers to perform great feats in the name of the fatherland. The aviators considered it the highest honor to enter battle as communists. By the end of the war, their number in the Air Force had increased more than threefold. The army of thousands of communists strengthened the Air Force and insured a constant party influence upon the military aviators. This testified to the boundless prestige of the Communist Party among Air Force personnel and to the high consciousness and dedication of the aviators to the Soviet people and to our socialist motherland.

Under the leadership of the Communist Party, the Soviet people, having won a worldwide historic victory, accomplished a great feat of labor--the feat of rebuilding the country and of its universal flourishing. A developed socialist society was established in the USSR, where a high sense of ideals, political consciousness, friendship and collectivism have become the norm of behavior of the Soviet peoples.

The Soviet soldiers, just like all the workers in our country, today work with inspiration on implementing the resolutions of the 26th CPSU Congress and of the subsequent plenums of the CPSU Central Committee, as well as the tasks put forward by the General Secretary of the CPSU Central Committee, Comrade Yu. V. Andropov, in his speeches before the November (1982) and June (1983) Plenums of the Party Central Committee.

Our achievements, the growth of the international prestige of the USSR and of the entire socialist collaboration as well as the successes of the forces of peace, democracy and social progress are clearly unsettling for the reactionary circles of imperialism, primarily those of American imperialism. Taking refuge behind the false myths of the "Soviet military threat" and "Soviet military supremacy," they seek to disrupt the military-strategic balance in their favor and once again pin their hopes upon a policy based on a position of power. They escalate the arms race and make preparations for a new world war.

Concentrating their efforts on the solution of two mutually related problems--the building of communism and the strengthening of peace--the CPSU Central Committee and the Soviet government constantly display their concern for further increasing the country's defensive capacity and reinforcing the combat might of the Soviet Armed Forces. This concern is reflected specifically in the growth of the combat might of the Air Force. The Air Force possesses in full measure all that is necessary for effective combat training and the successful fulfilment of the tasks before them.

In the postwar period, the Air Force was raised to a qualitatively new level and is now a formidable branch of the Armed Forces. The Air Force is equipped with the most modern equipment and weapons. Missile-carrying aircraft now form the ba-

sis of the Air Force. The missiles carried by these aircraft, including those with nuclear warheads, make it possible to destroy enemy targets without coming into the range of his antiaircraft defenses. The Air Force is equipped with modern weapons, the means for detecting the enemy and directing fire and the newest navigational equipment.

In recent years, we have created new multirole aircraft with variable-geometry wings as well as powerful VTOL aircraft. Military aviation can carry out a broad range of missions involving air cover and air support for ground troops and the attainment of air superiority. Many Soviet aircraft have no peer in the world with respect to altitude, speed and range. In recent years, the speed of combat aircraft has increased by a factor of 2 to 2.5, while the service ceiling of supersonic aircraft has risen to 30 km and more.

Great changes have also taken place in the military-transport aviation fleet. With the adoption of aircraft possessing great freight-handling capacities, it has become possible to transport combined-arms units and formations with their full complement by air. The helicopters in the Air Force inventory have become powerful combat aircraft capable of destroying the enemy's manpower and equipment on the field of battle and in the enemy's rear areas.

The Air Force today possesses high mobility and maneuverability which enable it to transfer the efforts of aviation from one direction to another, to penetrate far into the enemy's rear areas and act upon enemy targets and to use various weapons and electronic warfare measures at any time of day, during any season and under any weather conditions. The role of the Air Force in insuring the defense of the country has grown considerably.

Modern Soviet aviation was the cradle of astronautics. From among the military aviators came many of the USSR's pilot-cosmonauts. After the legendary feat of Yuriy Gagarin, more than 60 cosmonauts from our motherland and the countries of socialist cooperation have worked in space.

At the present time, intensive summertime combat training is under way in air units as well as throughout the entire army and navy. During the Soyuz-83 exercise recently conducted jointly with the fraternal armies, military aviators once again confirmed their high level of training and their loyalty to their filial duty before the motherland in a complex and dynamic environment simulating actual combat conditions as closely as possible. They indeed clearly demonstrated their fervent support for the internal and foreign policies of the CPSU and displayed a high degree of political maturity and determination.

The political-educational work conducted among the troops actively contributes to educating airmen who are boundlessly dedicated to the party, the motherland and the people and who possess high moral, political, combat and psychological qualities.

The socialist competition developing under the motto "To Increase Vigilance and Reliably Insure the Security of the Motherland!" is an effective means of achieving superior final results in training and service and of maintaining constant combat readiness and a further increase in the effectiveness and quality of our military aviators' flight training.

New advances in improving professional skills and in increasing combat readiness have been achieved by the leaders of socialist competition within the Air Force--in units where V. Vorob'yev, V. Ivanov, A. Pavlenko, V. Rebrov and others are the commanders and political workers. The successes they have achieved are the work of the hands, inexhaustible energy and creative search of the personnel, primarily of the pilots, navigators and aviation specialists. The main thing, however, is that the organizers of the training and the education thoroughly recognize what new moral, physical and psychological tests our airman will encounter in real battle and what a reserve of strength--ideological, combat and moral--they must employ in preparing the defenders of the motherland while it is still peacetime. For this reason, in their work they devote primary attention to the practical direction of the professional training of military aviators from all fields. The major portion of the training time is given to tactical meetings, group lessons and training directly on the equipment, in technical maintenance units, in aviation centers and flight and special simulators.

The military work of the military aviators is highly valued by our party and the Soviet government. Many leading commanders, political workers, pilots, navigators, engineers, technicians, communication specialists and rear service specialists have been recognized by awards. The best of the best have been awarded the honorary titles "Meritorious Military Pilot of the USSR" and "Meritorious Military Navigator of the USSR."

In peacetime, too, the aviator's profession requires that one give of oneself, and at times it requires true heroism. Each flight in a modern jet aircraft is always a test of the crew's moral-political and psychological qualities and their flight training. The history of the Air Force in recent years is full of many examples of the heroism and composure of our airmen. In our country, the names of courageous pilots B. Ryabtsev, B. Kapustin, Yu. Yanov, Yu. Solopov, P. Shklyaruk, V. Kubrakov and others are well known. In the complex flight environment, these men have displayed a high degree of determination and have performed heroic feats.

On one of their flights, the helicopter crew commanded by Maj V. Shcherbakov found themselves in a complex situation. The further execution of their mission required extreme risk. Having overcome all difficulties, the aviators coped with their mission. Returning to the airfield, however, they received a signal that another helicopter had gotten into a critical situation. V. Shcherbakov flew his aircraft to assist. The crew once again underwent severe tests. Their combat comrades were rescued. For exemplary execution of his soldier's duty and the courage and heroism he displayed, Maj V. V. Shcherbakov was awarded the title of Hero of the Soviet Union.

While carrying out a flight mission, cadet S. Dronov performed a courageous deed. While he was gaining altitude, a sudden clap sounded in the engine, and the instruments showed a sharp decrease in engine revolutions. On command from the ground, Sergey tried to restart the engine, acting strictly according to instructions. The cadet could not have known that his aircraft had struck a bird. It was explained when the award was presented to cadet S. Dronov: "Collecting his will, showing strength of character and displaying an excellent knowledge of his aircraft's performance characteristics and of the instructions on how to act in special flight situations, he landed his aircraft outside the airfield." For brave and skilful actions displayed in an emergency situation and for the preservation of expensive equipment, this courageous aviator was awarded the Order of the Red Star by Ukase of the Presidium of the USSR Supreme Soviet.

Inspired by the paternal concern of the Communist Party and the Soviet government, our aviators continue the glorious combat traditions of their grandfathers, fathers and older brothers in a worthy manner. The country of the Soviets is rightfully proud of its winged heroes.

USSR Air Force Day is likewise being given a fitting welcome by the workers of Order of Lenin and Order of the October Revolution Civil Aviation. The history of civil aviation is a reflection of all the historic stages in the unswerving and progressive development of our socialist motherland.

Civil aviation made a considerable contribution to the Soviet people's campaign for victory in the years of the Great Patriotic War. Here are only a few figures testifying to the combat services rendered by the fighting men of Civil Aviation. More than 20,000 Civil Aviation pilots were transferred to the ranks of the Air Force and participated in battles against Hitler's invaders. The motherland valued highly the military services of the front-line units of Aeroflot. More than 12,000 aviators were awarded orders and medals, while 15 airmen of Civil Aviation were awarded the title of Hero of the Soviet Union.

In the postwar years, civil aviation turned into a highly developed sector of the economy of our motherland. As early as the 10th Five Year Plan, third-generation jet passenger aircraft--the Il-86 and the Yak-42--began entering the Aeroflot inventory. Today, air transport carries more than a third of all passengers on intercity lines and more than 80 percent of all passengers on long-distance routes.

The network of air terminals and agencies and air-ticket sales points is continuously expanding. Passenger service on the numerous air routes of our country is becoming better and better.

A great role in the training of future military aviators and masters of aerial sport and in the military-patriotic education of our young people belongs to the All-Union Voluntary Society for Assistance to the Army, Air Force and Navy of the USSR, a holder of two orders. DOSAAF serves as a trusty assistant and reliable reserve for the USSR Air Force. With all responsibility, DOSAAF carries out Lenin's behests and the requirements of the Soviet Constitution regarding the national nature of the defense of the socialist fatherland. Uniting in its ranks more than 103 million men, this defense society makes a considerable contribution to strengthening our state's combat might.

Soviet aviators greet USSR Air Force Day with new successes in combat and political training. Rallied closely around their native Leninist party and boundlessly dedicated to the people, they stand in a single combat formation with the personnel of all the branches of the Armed Forces of the Country of the Soviets and the armies of the states participating in the Warsaw Pact and are always prepared to advance and defend our socialist achievements.

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WESTERN MYTHOLOGY ON BATTLE OF KURSK

Moscow KOMMUNIST VOORUZHENNYKH SIL in Russian No 13, Jul 83 pp 76-80

[Article by G. Korotkov, candidate of historical sciences: "Why Do They Pass off a Lie as the Truth?"]

[Text] A war, just like each of its battles, is manifested in two ways: as reality, and later as a reflection of the events of the past in the consciousness of people. If one speaks of reality, 40 years already separate us from one of the most important and decisive events of the Great Patriotic and Second World Wars--the crushing defeat of the German Fascist troops at the Battle of Kursk. Having scratched the long-range military and political plans of Fascist Germany through the might of its weapons, the Red Army firmly seized the strategic initiative and did not relinquish it until the victorious May of 1945.

The defeats at Kursk and then on the Dnepr had a tremendous effect on the moral spirit of the German Fascist troops. Scepticism of victory became more and more widespread not only among the soldiers but also among the officers and even the general officers in the Wehrmacht. The press in the neutral countries noted at the time that "the sense of impending doom is growing" among wide sections of the German populace. In November 1943, Fascist Gen Jodl acknowledged that "the indications of demoralization are on the march" throughout all of Germany.

The victories of the Red Army had a tremendous influence on the situation of the Fascist bloc. In Finland, for example, Gen Mannerheim was forced to quit his post as Commander-in-Chief of the Finnish and German troops on the northern segment of the Eastern Front. The Spanish dictator Franco was quick to pull the pitiful remnants of his defeated "Blue Division" out of Russia. A reactionary clique in Hungary began seeking a way to get out of the war. Dissatisfaction with Hitler's dictates grew throughout wide sections of the populace and the military command of royal Romania. The resistance movement picked up in France, Norway and Bulgaria and in Yugoslavia and Albania, in particular.

How were these events perceived in the United States? The tremendous influence of the victories of the Red Army on the course of the Second World War was openly emphasized in official circles in Washington. On 16 June 1943, for example, President Franklin D. Roosevelt wrote Joseph Stalin: "I dare say that I can confidently congratulate you for the splendid showing your army is making in battle against the German offensive at Kursk." On 6 August he again noted the successes of the Soviet

troops: "In the course of a month of gigantic battles, your armed forces have not only stopped the long-contemplated German offensive through their skills, courage, selflessness and tenacity, but have also begun a successful counter-offensive which will have far-reaching consequences."

Similar testimony is not rare. Gen Dwight D. Eisenhower, the Supreme Commander of the British and American troops in Italy, for example, noted that the aggressive actions of the Soviet troops in the second half of 1943 "rendered a tremendous service in the sense that we acted confidently, knowing that the German Command would not be able to devote the necessary attention to the Southern Front."

Indeed, in the summer and autumn of 1943, Hitler and his aides had no time for Italy. The gigantic crucible of fierce engagements on the left-bank portion of the Ukraine devoured all of Fascist Germany's strategic reserves. In fact, in the period from July to September, when the fate of Italy, Germany's most powerful European ally, was being decided, the German Command took 14 divisions, significant forces of bomber and fighter aviation and a great many units from the other arms of the service from Western Europe and directed them to the Eastern Front. All of this made it possible for the British and American troops to carry out an assault landing on Sicily and in the south of the Apennine peninsula. In the estimation of American general Omar Bradley, the allies "encountered no difficulties upon landing."

Such was the reality. The Soviet soldier in engagements at the Battle of Kursk and on the Dnepr effected a fundamental turning point in the course of the war in favor of the anti-Fascist coalition. The Wermacht suffered colossal losses of manpower and equipment. Hitler's offensive and subsequent defensive strategy had come to a conclusive end.

If one speaks of the manifestation of war as the reflection of the events of the past in the consciousness of the people, the "objective" and "impartial" bourgeois reactionary historians, while sensing which way the "cold-war" wind is blowing, have devoted no small amount of effort to distorting the real picture of the past battles which have had a profound influence upon the fate of mankind. Such distortions were not avoided in the interpretation of the Battle of Kursk in the Western historiography. First of all, they have numbered it among the ranks of secondary engagements.

In a number of works of American and British historians, it is asserted that the advance of the Soviet Armed Forces in the summer of 1943 took place "under very favorable conditions." They say that Hitler was "shackled" by the actions of the British and American troops in Italy and that, moreover, the Red Army "had received equipment from overseas."

The goal of a similar kind of falsification is to prove that it was not the victory of the Red Army but rather the offensive of British and American troops in the south of Italy that seems to have effected the fundamental turning point in the Second World War. For this reason, the positive evaluations of the American and British political and military leaders were buried in oblivion and the actual statistical data revealing the great difference in the scope and the results of the two operations, impossible to compare, were cast aside.

In fact, during the course of the summer-fall offensive of 1943, the Red Army destroyed 118 enemy divisions, that is, half of all the forces active in the East. The Fascists lost more than 1.4 million men, about 3,200 tanks, approximately 10,000 aircraft and about 26,000 guns. In this same period, the losses suffered by Hitler's troops in Italy comprised about 50,000 soldiers and officers, that is, 30 times fewer than on the Soviet-German front. In the estimation of the leaders of the Third Reich themselves, the attacks of British and American aviation on the territory of Germany did not cause any serious damage to the German military industry. In comparison with the previous year, the German military industry in 1943 had even increased production of the basic types of arms and combat equipment, the absolute majority of which were sent to the Eastern Front.

If one speaks of the American equipment which allegedly insured victory for the Russians, the situation in actuality is as follows: the Lend-Lease deliveries in the summer and fall of 1943 were insignificantly small. During the course of the entire Great Patriotic War, they comprised only 4 percent of the overall quantity of arms and combat equipment produced in our plants and factories.

The old version of Lend-Lease even today migrates from one bourgeois publication to the next. One other fiction that continues to live on the pages of the latest military-historical literature in the United States and the other countries of NATO is that the Russians won through strength of numbers and not through skill. Additionally, this old story is closely associated with the USSR's alleged desire to destroy military-strategic parity in order to "by tradition" possess numerical superiority of forces.

No, the victory of the Red Army at the Battle of Kursk was not won through "numerical superiority." The following facts speak eloquently of this. At the Fiery Bulge, the Soviet troops surpassed the Wehrmacht in men by a factor of only 1.4, in tanks by 1.2, in artillery by 1.9 and in aircraft by 1.3. As the experience of the Second World War showed, one could have counted on success with such relative strengths only if Soviet military skills surpassed the military skills of Hitler's vaunted generals.

During the course of the Kursk engagement, the Red Army enriched its experience in organizing a deeply echeloned defense that was strong in the antitank and antiaircraft respects as well as its experience in decisively maneuvering manpower and resources. On the counter-offensive, the Soviet troops displayed a high degree of skill in organizing and conducting offensive operations under summertime conditions. In the Battle of Kursk, the military skills of all branches of the Armed Forces and arms of the service were enriched.

In the engagement at the Fiery Bulge, the Soviet Command demonstrated a creative and innovative approach to the solution of the most important problems of strategy and tactics and its superiority over Hitler's military school.

In order to diminish the historical significance of the the Red Army's victory at the Battle of Kursk, today's "Sovietologists" in their works try to convince the reader that Germany in 1943 allegedly "was already weak." If this is so, where is the greatness in the victory? No, gentlemen, Fascist Germany at that time still remained a formidable and dangerous enemy. Suffice to say that its effective army numbered more than five million well-equipped and combat-experienced soldiers and officers. To this figure one must add the troops of all of Germany's satellites.

Well, if Germany indeed "was weak," then one may ask: why did "strong" Britain and America dawdle so long during the summer and fall of 1943 in the south of Italy? As documents published overseas after the war testify, Germany in 1943 was assessed as an enemy capable of weakening the Soviet Union in every possible way.

No, the Soviet victory at the Battle of Kursk was not an "accident" of history. It was totally natural. At its basis lay such objective factors as the advantages of a socialist economy, the moral-political unity of the Soviet people and the wisdom of the Communist Party's guidance in conducting the war in defense of the socialist fatherland. In this battle, as before, the total superiority of Soviet military science over the aggressor's military science was demonstrated.

In only the last two or three years, dozens of new books on the Second World War have appeared in the West. In these books one can find authentic historical facts. The main thing, however, that unites similar publications is the use of methods of falsification. The most popular of these, as in the past, is the attempt to diminish the significance of the Battle of Kursk and to present it as an insignificant and secondary operation.

The exception, perhaps, is the book by W. Dann entitled "The Second Front Today--in 1943." In American periodicals this book has already been nicknamed "a provocative book." It has received such a label only because its author, on the basis of an analysis of the documents, came to the following conclusion: the United States and Britain had all the material and technical resources, the manpower reserves and an exceptionally favorable strategic situation for opening a second front in Western Europe after the victory of the Red Army at Kursk. "The invasion of France," writes Dann, "not only should have been but could have been undertaken in 1943." In Washington and London, however, it was decided to delay the operation until a future time--to delay it for political considerations: to prolong the war another year so that, at the end, the USSR "would prove to be exhausted and Germany destroyed."

After the Reagan Administration's announcement of a "crusade" against communism, the reactionary bourgeois historiography and the Western mass media undertook to shake up the old myths in an effort to "prove" that military might allegedly played the role of "the primary stimulus of Soviet expansionism" in the policies of the CPSU and the Soviet state at the end of the Second World War. The call has even appeared: "The most dangerous thing is to underestimate the Russians." The experience of the past war, according to the assertion of the authors of the book, "The Diplomacy of Force," published in the United States in 1981, "has not always been correctly characterized in the West in early works." The bad thing, they inform us, is that in the 1950's and 1960's, too much was written that created among the readership the notion of the USSR as a "weak enemy." For this reason, the American historian W. Vernon in his article entitled "Tactical Operations of Soviet Troops in the Second World War. The Significance of These Lessons for Modern Times" calls upon historians to again re-examine the American evaluations of the Soviet military experience based on the confessions of Nazi generals, for, indeed, "they underestimated the Russians" and lost the war.

Yes, the Fascist leaders of Germany did make a miscalculation, pinning their hopes on the blitzkrieg in their aggression against the USSR. The American historian, however, is stirring up history not in order to prove the groundlessness of any imperialist adventures against the USSR. Instead, he clearly wishes to tie in his version with the myth of the "Soviet military threat" and to utilize the facts of history to please the modern American policy of aggression and war.

In a word, a qualitatively new tendency is making headway in the latest bourgeois historiography of the Second World War and of the Battle of Kursk: the historic victories of the Red Army are being presented as "proof of Soviet expansionism."

Things have come to the point where the course of Franklin D. Roosevelt's Administration is being subjected to condemnation in the works of bourgeois historians. His Administration decided in 1941 to cooperate militarily with the USSR in battle against a common enemy. For example, in his book, "Stalin's Policies in Relation to America: From Hostility to Cooperation, and Later to the 'Cold War'," T. Tobman writes that, thanks to clever diplomacy, the Soviet Union "drew the United States over to its side," which allegedly "insured the Russian victory." The author, however, does not speak with certainty of how the United States and other capitalist nations entered into military and political cooperation with the USSR in common battle against the Fascist aggressor not out of motives of goodness, but because of objective historical conditions, when the threat of danger to the United States and Britain became real: Hitler did not conceal his plans of achieving world dominance.

The assessment of the Soviet soldier and his combat and moral qualities has likewise changed in the latest bourgeois historical literature. It is impossible, lectures the American magazine AIR FORCE, to approach an assessment of the Soviet soldier using only the yardstick of the period of the Second World War, when Hitler's leaders as well as some army generals in the United States and Britain called these soldiers "half-wild Asiatics" who "strike terror with their countless numbers." The magazine continues to say that one must not see the "characteristics of the Soviet soldier" today in this alone. In what, then? In the fact that the Soviet soldier is steadfast, capable of great endurance, disciplined, not afraid of cold or hunger, is educated in communist ideals and "is a threat to the West."

Today's henchmen in Reagan's "crusade" against communism have gone far beyond those first "successes" in the falsification of history which were characteristic of the "Cold War" period. The reactionary NATO historiography has openly taken the Fascist aggressors under their protection. In the latest bourgeois publications, the Nazi thugs are quite frequently depicted in the form of some sort of undeservedly "forgotten heroes." For example, returning to the events of 40 years ago, the Paris periodical FIGARO-MAGAZINE in an article entitled "For Europe" imparts to us the following, word-for-word: "The European defenders (that is, Hitler's troops--Ed.) blocked the Red Hordes' path to total domination over the continent."

Before us is an evident attempt to ascribe expansionist intentions to the Soviet Union. In fact, we should not speak about just an individual attempt, but about the creation and dissemination in the West of the myth of "Soviet expansionism." In a number of the latest bourgeois military-historical publications, this myth is not only solidly based, but its creators have gone so far in their "scientific investigations" as to have discovered, it turns out, the precise date on which the Soviet Union turned to "expansionism."

In the above-mentioned book, "The Diplomacy of Force," in particular, it is established how, from that moment, the Russian armies drove back the attacks of the German tanks, launched an offensive and "began their expansion in the western direction." Can it be that the bourgeois historians call the counter-offensive of the Soviet troops at Kursk the "beginning of expansion" out of stupidity? Or, can it be that there is a misprint in the book: instead of the well-known military term

"counter-offensive," they put in the word "expansionism?" No, this is evidently not a misprint but an intentionally fabricated lie which is repeated not only by the authors of this book, but is widely used by the American and NATO periodic press. The American "Sovietologist" S. Kaplan has even conducted "special research" and has published his results: after 1943, asserts this historian, the Soviet leaders have more than 190 times used military force as an "instrument of aggression," including no less than 20 times at the end of the Second World War!

What sort of "cases" are we speaking about? As it turns out, according to Kaplan, "Soviet expansion" after the realization of a successful turning point in the Second World War, was manifested in the advance of Soviet troops in the Baltic countries, and later in Romania, Bulgaria, Hungary, Poland, Czechoslovakia and Germany. He characterizes each offensive operation of the Red Army beyond the territory of the USSR (this "Sovietologist" does not even consider the Baltic countries to be Soviet territory) as an "expansionist act."

One might suggest that Kaplan does not understand geography very well. No, one would not say this, because he occupies a post as a leading scientific staff member at the famous American Brookings Institute. This mystery is easily explained: people like Kaplan use the Soviet Union's handling of the history of the Great Patriotic War as one more possibility for ascribing certain "scientific" grounds to the false myth of the "Soviet military threat."

Recently, in a series of books on the life and "activities" of the Fuehrer of the Third Reich published in the United States and in the NATO countries together, so to speak, with the standard characterizations of Hitler as an "untalented military leader" and a "shortsighted politician," there is a more and more of a distinctly observed desire to portray him as a "prophet" who saw the threat of "Soviet expansionism" before anyone else in the West. In its irrepressible zeal to rehabilitate Criminal #1 and turn him into the spiritual father of today's NATO "hawks," the bourgeois propaganda machine resorts to the most refined and absurd fabrications. One need only take the "Hitler's Diaries," excerpts of which have been printed in the West German magazine STERN. It has been established with certainty that Hitler wrote none of the diaries. All of this is an outrage upon history, a routine attempt to whitewash the odious figure of the leader of the Third Reich.

The authentic history of the realization of a fundamental turning point in the Second World War and the great historical liberating mission of the Red Army cannot be refuted, no matter what methods of falsification the imperialist ideologists resort to. The Soviet troops fought from Stalingrad and Kursk to Berlin and Vienna, crushing the main forces of the Fascist aggressor. They brought liberation to tens of millions of people who were enslaved by Fascism. They saved civilization, and their heroic feat will live on for centuries.

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BOOK ON HISTORY OF SOVIET ARMED FORCES REVIEWED

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[Review by F. Shakhmagonov of book "Put' muzhestvo i slavy: Ocherk o Sovetskikh Vooruzhennykh Sil" [The Path of Courage and Fame: Essay on the Soviet Armed Forces] by V. S. Ryabov, DOSAAF, Moscow, 1982, 335 pages]

[Text] This book reflects the stages of development of the Soviet Armed Forces and tells of the glorious path they have blazed in combat, their historical role and purpose, their technical equipment and their moral-political preparation for the defense of the motherland.

In the chapter entitled "Born Through Revolution," the reader is presented with the heroic events that began the Great October. The author manages to construct a narrative interestingly and with understanding and to convey to the reader along with the familiar data new, little-known facts. He also cites the testimony of eye-witnesses, the views of political and military figures and the confessions of rabid enemies of the Soviet state.

The book reveals the reasons for the invulnerability of the Soviet Armed Forces. In the years of the Civil War and the war of intervention, the poorly armed and half-starved Red Army soldiers, wearing whatever uniforms they had, overcame the enemy through high moral spirit, discipline, revolutionary vigilance and immeasurable courage and valor. An inexhaustible source of invincibility was the wise leadership of the Leninist party with its military structure as well as its inseparable unity with the people, ardent patriotism and proletarian internationalism.

The chapter entitled "In the Years of Peaceful Building" is pithy. Utilizing interesting factual and illustrative material, the author talks about the kinds of changes which have taken place in the Red Army and Navy in the years between wars and about how the foundation was laid for future victories over the shock forces of world imperialism--German Fascism and Japanese militarism.

"The Great October." In this drama-filled chapter, the author points out the loftiest of patriotic upsurges which was characteristic of the Soviet people during the terrible war years. In a well-reasoned manner and with knowledge of his subject, the author describes the most important operations of the Great Patriotic War and tells of the heroic feats of Soviet soldiers, unprecedented in history.

In the book's concluding chapter, the author points out the increase in the aggressiveness of the imperialist states and the short-sightedness and danger of the course being taken by the present U.S. Administration which is trying to plunge mankind into a nuclear catastrophe.

The Soviet Armed Forces, as the book points out, stand on guard for peace and creativity. The author talks specifically about each of their services, the arms of the services and their modern weapons. His primary attention, however, is devoted to the Soviet peoples dressed in their military uniforms who master the arms and military equipment of unprecedented might and strengthen the combat readiness of the army and the navy.

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VICE ADM D'YAKONSKIY REVIEWS BOOK ON HISTORY OF PACIFIC FLEET

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[Review by Vice Adm N. D'yakonskiy, member of the Military Council, chief of the Political Directorate of the Red Banner Pacific Fleet, of book "Vperedi atakuyushchikh" [Ahead of the Attackers] by V. P. Vorob'yev, Politizdat, Moscow, 1983, 159 pages]

[Text] The Red Banner Pacific Fleet was 50 years old last year, and this annotated book is dedicated to this event. Step by step, the book traces the combat trail covered in everlasting glory which was blazed by the Pacific Fleet sailors--reliable defenders of the Far Eastern borders of our fatherland. The author--a journalist, political worker and participant in the Great Patriotic War--points out in the documentary material how the Pacific Fleet, a combat detachment of the Armed Forces, grew, matured and became strong along with the country. He also shows how its material and technical foundation was laid and how the personnel were selected and educated.

In the years of the Great Patriotic War, the fleet was in constant combat readiness to repulse the aggression of imperialist Japan. More than 147,000 Pacific Fleet sailors fought on the land fronts. True to the traditions of the home fleet, they heroically defended Moscow, fought at Leningrad, stood to the death at Sevastopol, conducted battles in the Ukraine, in the Caucasus and in the Arctic regions and took part in the Battle of Stalingrad. Dozens of Pacific Fleet sailors were awarded the title of Hero of the Soviet Union, while thousands were presented with orders and medals. Many ships and units received Guards titles, honorary names and state awards.

Several chapters in the book are devoted to the combat actions of the personnel of the Red Banner Pacific Fleet in the final stage of the Second World War--in the course of battle with militarist Japan. Noting the courage and heroism of the sailors, the author points out the various methods and forms of party-political work on the ships and within the units of the fleet. The most popular of these were brief party and Komsomol gatherings, conferences of the active party and Komsomol members, party organizers and Komsomol leaders, meetings and discussions, the publication of addresses and leaflets and the selection of small shock groups from among the communists and Komsomol members for the "first wave" on the enemy shore, etc. Through the entire book runs the idea that the guarantee of the successes of the Red Banner Pacific Fleet lay in the leadership of the Communist Party. It literally nurtured it.

Years have passed. Now, notes the author, the fleet is not the same as it was during the war years. Today it is much stronger, armed with guided-missile ships of various classes and formidable nuclear submarines. The fleet has excellent marines and jet-powered missile-carrying aircraft. The main strength of the fleet, however, is the communists, Komsomol members and all its personnel. Possessing superior moral and combat qualities and skilfully utilizing the equipment and weapons entrusted to them, they successfully execute the missions assigned to them and vigilantly defend the peaceful creative work of the Soviet people. Thoroughly understanding their patriotic and international duty, the sailors spare no effort in their military labor and on extended ocean voyages while displaying courage, heroism and boundless love for the socialist fatherland.

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YEPISHEV SPEECH ON RSDRP ANNIVERSARY

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[Article by Army Gen A. Yepishev, chief of the Main Political Directorate of the Soviet Army and Navy: "The Chief Source of the Defensive Might of the Soviet State"]

[Text] Taking a mental glance at the history of our state from the legendary shot of the Aurora to the present day, the Soviet people proudly acknowledge that all of their achievements in the building of communism are associated with the activities of their own party. The great Lenin stands as the source of its creation. It is on the basis of the ideological, political and organizational principles developed by him that the Second RSDRP Congress which took place 80 years ago, in July and August 1903, completed the process of uniting the separate Marxist organizations of Russia into a united whole. This notable fact testifies to how a new force called to lead the courageous struggle of the working class and all laborers for their social and national liberation from capitalist oppression has entered the historical arena--the party of socialist revolution and communist creation.

The mind, honor and conscience of our epoch--such is Lenin's famous definition of the party of the Bolsheviks. At all stages in the struggle to build a new society, the CPSU has deservedly justified and continues to justify the lofty evaluation of its founder and leader. This was emphasized particularly strongly by the July (1983) Plenum of the Party Central Committee which took place on the eve of the 80th anniversary of the Second RSDRP Congress. The resolutions of the Plenum are a new and vivid manifestation of the Communist Party's practical Leninist approach to the solutions of the vital problems of our social development at the stage of mature socialism. This is convincing testimony to the monolithic solidarity and unity of the party and the people. Comrade Yu. V. Andropov delivered a long program speech at the Plenum. In his speech, he provided a detailed substantiation of the most important long-range tasks in the building of communism, in the formation of the new man and in the struggle for peace and social progress. His speech mentioned the extensive complex of practical measures to be taken to intensify the ideological, political and moral conditioning of the Soviet people, including the fighting men of the Army and the Navy, as well as those measures to be taken for further raising their cultural level.

Together with all our people, the personnel of the Armed Forces welcomed the resolutions of the Plenum and the speech of Comrade Yu. V. Andropov at the Plenum as an urgent program of action. This is yet another confirmation of the correctness

of the conclusion drawn in the resolution of the Plenum about how the ideological and political situation in the country is characterized by the further rallying of the Soviet people around the Communist Party of the Soviet Union, its Central Committee and the Politburo headed by Yu. V. Andropov. With a feeling of deep satisfaction, the workers of our country and the fighting men in the Army and Navy welcomed the news about the election of Comrade Yu. V. Andropov as Chairman of the Presidium of the USSR Supreme Soviet.

The Soviet people and the armed defenders of the motherland unanimously support the internal and foreign policies of the CPSU, the course of the party toward the intensification of production, the rise in the people's material welfare and culture, the deepening of socialist democracy, the strengthening of the bases of our way of life, the preservation of peace and the prevention of thermonuclear war. Through concrete works they answer the party's call to strengthen discipline and order in all ways possible, to work in a more orderly and efficient manner and to carry out successfully the resolutions of the 26th CPSU Congress and the May and November (1982) as well as the June (1983) Plenums of the Central Committee. This means that they will raise even higher the economic and defensive might of the Soviet state which is proceeding confidently along a Leninist course toward communism under the leadership of the party.

The establishment and defense of a new society are the main goals of the policies of our party which were set before it immediately after the victory of the Great October. The whirlwind of revolution cleanly swept away the seemingly stable landed bourgeois orders in Russia. As a result, powerful creative forces were liberated which had for centuries slumbered in the midst of the people who had been raised by the party to independent historic creativity. The young Soviet republic, illuminated by the genius of Lenin, proceeded with the realization of far-reaching social transformations. It rightfully became the herald of a new life, the light of hope and a support for all the oppressed and unfortunate peoples on the earth. This, however, conflicted with the plans of international imperialism. World reaction, united by the desire to destroy the power of the workers and the peasant in the bud, undertook a genuine "crusade" against it.

Speaking in Lenin's words, it was "worldwide imperialism that caused our Civil War." The Civil War placed the issue of the creation of the Soviet state's military organization on the agenda. Vladimir Il'ich Lenin not only pointed out the methods for building a new socialist society, but also provided a detailed justification for his idea on the necessity for the armed defense of this society from the constant threat of imperialist invasion. Lenin's teachings on the defense of the socialist fatherland armed the party with precise, scientific directions in the area of military construction.

At the basis of this teaching lies the conclusion that any revolution is only worth something if it can be defended. Our revolution has indeed proven that it is capable of defending its achievements from numerous internal and foreign enemies who have pounced upon it from all sides. It is in the Workers' and Peasants' Red Army and the Workers' and Peasants' Red Navy created under the party's leadership that the revolution obtained the real power which became the embodiment of the heroism and courage of the first to pass through the new society.

Having utterly crushed the united hordes of internal counter-revolution and foreign interventionists and having victoriously concluded the Civil War, our people under the guidance of the party proceeded with solving creative problems. As early as the middle of the 1930's, fundamental socialist transformations have been successfully realized in our country--the industrialization of the economy, the transition of the village to the collective path of development and a cultural revolution.

This new order, the first of its kind in history, affirmed the public ownership of the means of production and once and for all did away with class and national antagonism, unemployment and the exploitation of the workers. It likewise brought genuine freedom to the broad mass of people and put all the achievements of material and spiritual culture in the service of the people. Hitherto unprecedented relations of equality, friendship and comradely mutual assistance took shape among the workers of our society. The moral, political and ideological unity of all classes, nations, nationalities, social strata and groups of the population were affirmed. Marxism-Leninism became the dominant ideology of the multinational Soviet people.

When war broke out in June of 1941, foisted upon us by the shock forces of imperialism headed by German Fascism, the entire country rose up decisively and formidably to defend its revolutionary achievements. Our own Communist Party, which had become a fighting party in the full sense of the word, was the inspirer and organizer of our victory in the Great Patriotic War. It was the Communist Party that appeared as the leading and directing force of Soviet society in the battle with the German Fascist invaders. In the grim years of the Great Patriotic War, the Soviet people and their valiant Armed Forces under the leadership of the Leninist party won a worldwide historic victory and saved the people from the threat of Fascist enslavement.

Our country in the postwar period, in carrying out the creative plans of our party, healed its heavy wounds in a short period of time and then achieved remarkable new successes in the building of socialism and communism. The chief result of the development of the Soviet society was the formation of mature socialism in the USSR. In his speech at the June (1983) Plenum of the CPSU Central Committee, Comrade Yu. V. Andropov noted that this is a society where an economic base, social structure and political system corresponding to socialist principles has been fully established and where socialism develops, as is customary to say, on its own collective basis.

It is fully understandable that the basic content of the activities of the CPSU under modern conditions is the steady perfection of such a society to the degree that our country makes the gradual transition to communism. This transition suggests a further all-round upsurge in the productive forces of the Soviet state, the development and strengthening within the state of collective social relations and social consciousness, a socialist state system and socialist democracy and domestic science and culture. This increases immeasurably the role of the party itself as the guiding and directing force of Soviet society and the nucleus of its political system and state and social organizations.

The CPSU structures all of its multifaceted activity on the granite foundation of Marxism-Leninism. Founded on this eternally living and naturally correct teaching, the CPSU determines the general prospects of the development of the society, the line of the USSR's internal and foreign policies, guides the great creative activity

of the Soviet people and lends a systematic and scientifically based nature to its struggle for the victory of communism.

A graphic confirmation of this is the historic resolutions of the 26th CPSU Congress of the Communist Party and the subsequent Plenums of its Central Committee. In these resolutions is comprehensive substantiation for both the current and the long-range tasks of the party in the area of the intensified strengthening of the economic, social, scientific-technical, spiritual and defensive potentials of our state and an improvement in the people's welfare. At the center of the CPSU's attention is the steady improvement in labor productivity and social production on the whole, its further intensification, improvement in the organization and quality of work in all elements of the state and economic mechanism and the ideological and political education of the workers. Soviet society has now approached such a historic frontier when profoundly qualitative changes in the productive forces and in production relations are not only ready to happen, but have also become necessary. The party is striving to take these changes into consideration in its policies as fully as possible.

The founder and leader of our party, V. I. Lenin, taught that "politics is participation in the affairs of the state, the direction of the state and the determination of the forms, tasks and content of the activities of the state." It includes a broad spectrum of the most varied and complex problems--from economic-organizational, sociopolitical and spiritual-ideological to military. In this policy are reflected the collective wisdom of the CPSU, its inflexible will and revolutionary energy and firm confidence in the inevitable triumph of the ideals of communism.

For the successful realization of the far-reaching plans of the party in the area of the building of communism and the execution of the intensive tasks of the 11th Five-Year Plan, the Soviet people must first of all have favorable foreign-policy conditions. By the example of the USSR and the other fraternal nations of socialist cooperation, mankind is more and more convinced that socialism and peace are inseparable concepts. The Soviet people proudly acknowledge that our Communist Party advances as the standard-bearer of peace on our planet.

The peace-loving policies of the USSR and the significant peace initiatives advanced by the Soviet Union and the other countries of socialism find ever greater support among the broad strata of the progressive international community. Proposals directed at preventing a worldwide nuclear-missile war have received the hearty approval of the peoples. These proposals are contained in the Prague Political Declaration of the Participating Warsaw-Pact States and in the joint declaration of the participants in the meeting that took place recently in Moscow among leading party and government figures from socialist nations.

The question of the preservation of peace on the earth to which the July Plenum of the CPSU Central Committee devoted special attention is today and in the foreseeable future a pivotal problem for our party's foreign policy. Each step on the road to peace, however, requires an intensive and courageous struggle with the latter-day "crusaders"--today's imperialist "hawks." As was pointed out in the resolution of the Plenum, there is an acute exacerbation of the struggle between two social systems, two diametrically opposed world views, taking place in the world arena, the likes of which have not been seen in the entire postwar period. The historic achievements of real socialism, the increase in the prestige and influence of the

worldwide communist and workers' movement, the progressive development of the countries that have thrown off the yoke of colonial oppression, the upsurge in the national liberation struggle and the tremendous scale of the antiwar movement have an ever deepening effect on the consciousness of the peoples throughout the world. Imperialist reaction, primarily that of the ruling clique in the United States, is pushing mankind to the brink of nuclear catastrophe with its aggressive policies in nurturing its wild plans for world domination. A psychological war of unprecedented scale and shamelessness is being waged against the Soviet Union and the countries of socialism.

The process of an intensified growth of the offensive combat might of the U.S. Armed Forces is under way, accompanied by a sharp increase in their potential to inflict a first strike. Active preparation continues for the deployment of new intercontinental ballistic and cruise missiles, the nuclear-missile systems based on the Trident submarines are being improved and new types of weapons of mass destruction are being developed.

In a recent statement, the Soviet government stressed that, in view of the increase in the threat to the security of the USSR and its allies as a result of the development, production and introduction into the combat inventory of new American ground-based, seaborne and airborne strategic weapons, it has become necessary for the Soviet Union to undertake retaliatory measures to strengthen its own defensive capabilities, including a method for deploying corresponding new strategic systems. Such steps by the Soviet Union are dictated by the actual situation taking shape and will be the Soviet Union's answer to the actions of the United States. Their only goal is to prevent a disruption of the balance of forces that has been established.

At the same time, the statement said that it was still not too late to stop the dangerous exacerbation of the international situation. For this, however, it is important for not only the USSR but for the United States as well to take a reasonable position on this issue.

How did the West react to the statement of the Soviet government? Its reaction was expressively manifested at a recent meeting of the leaders of seven of the largest imperialist states in the American city of Williamsburg, where President Reagan yet again unequivocally demonstrated not only his arrogant and imperious attitude toward his own partners but also his open disregard for international problems. The head of the American Administration tried to direct the course of the meeting not toward the elimination of the most critical economic disorders which are literally tearing apart the capitalist world but along a particularly military course. "The greater amount of time was devoted to the antagonism between East and West, particularly in the area of nuclear arms," wrote the WASHINGTON POST. The meeting of the leaders of the "Big Seven" wholly confirmed the validity of the evaluation given our government in the obstructionist line of the Washington Administration presented in Vienna at the talks on the reduction of armed forces and weapons in Central Europe. Such a line, as the documents from the meeting testify, was directed as before at whipping up the arms race and altering the balance of military forces in favor of the United States and NATO.

This, as in the past, forces our party to firmly combine within its own policies a consistent love of peace and a genuinely Leninist concern for the defense of the socialist fatherland. The concern of the CPSU for insuring the reliable defensive

capabilities of the Soviet state is of a comprehensive and multiplan nature and is directed toward the constant improvement of the state's economic, social, scientific, technical, spiritual and military potentials. This concern finds its concentrated reflection in the military policy in which the party determines the essence and content of the activities of state organs and social organizations in the area of the country's defense.

V. I. Lenin always examined military policy in the context of the overall party policy. Its force and vitality have been proven by time and are based on the sturdy foundation of Marxism-Leninism and on his teachings regarding war, the army and the defense of the socialist fatherland.

The basic directions of the CPSU's policy in the area of defense are the scientific development of the military doctrine of the state and the comprehensive substantiation and practical realization of the principles of organization of the Armed Forces; of the training and education of the personnel; of material-technical support of the Army and Navy; of the preparation of military personnel; of the development of military science and the art of war; and of the moral-political and psychological preparation of servicemen and the entire population for the decisive destruction of the imperialist aggressors in case they dare to disrupt the peaceful, creative work of our people.

Questions associated with the development and improvement of the Armed Forces and the steady increase of their combat might occupy a central position in the party's military policy. This is entirely understandable, for the Armed Forces have been created in an effort to defend socialist achievements, the peaceful labor of the Soviet people and the sovereignty and territorial integrity of our state. From this it logically follows that the primary mission of the Army and Navy is to reliably defend the socialist fatherland and to be in a state of constant combat readiness that guarantees the immediate rebuff of any aggressor.

It is understandable that for the successful fulfilment of this task it is necessary to have the corresponding concentration of state resources and a mobilization of society's efforts on the whole. This is why our Basic Law relates the defense of the socialist fatherland to the most important functions of the state and declares it to be the business of all the people. As the USSR Constitution stresses, the state insures the security and defensive capability of the country and equips the Armed Forces with everything they need. The defense of the socialist fatherland is solemnly proclaimed to be the sacred duty of all Soviet citizens, while military service is their honorable obligation.

In realizing its policies in the area of military organization, the CPSU directs the activities of state organs, social organizations and officials which are associated with insuring the country's security and increasing the combat might of the Army and Navy. The party directs the selection, training and placing of the Armed Forces' command, political and engineering-technical personnel. It also mobilizes the personnel to qualitatively and effectively utilize the material base and the resources allotted to them in the interests of the steady improvement of the troops' combat readiness to beat off a sudden attack of aggressors.

V. I. Lenin taught the party to prepare itself long and seriously for the defense of the socialist fatherland, beginning with the country's economic rise. He warned

that it is impossible to wage a modern war against imperialism without thorough economic preparation. The CPSU must be faithful to the instruction of its founder and leader.

The vitality of the Leninist approach to the proper solution on the part of our state to problems associated with the strengthening of defense capabilities and the protection of the country from imperialist aggression has been confirmed by all the experience gained in military organization and, primarily, by the history of the Civil War and especially the Great Patriotic War. This experience convincingly testifies to the insuperable economic and defensive might of the Soviet state, to the especially high combat capability of its Army and Navy, to the indisputable advantages of domestic scientific thought and to the effectiveness and quality of our arms and combat equipment created through the labor and genius of the people under the guidance of the CPSU.

The further progress of our economy, science and technology is characteristic of the USSR at this stage of developed socialism. As was noted at the June (1983) Plenum of the CPSU Central Committee, great successes have been achieved in solving many economic, sociopolitical and cultural problems in the first phase of communism. The country's economy today is a united industrial, technical and scientific complex characterized by the systematic distribution of industry, the strict balancing of all sectors and the transformation of science into a direct productive force. Within this complex, thorough consideration is given to the economic, scientific, technical and sociopolitical needs of our state as well as to its defense requirements.

The 26th CPSU Congress has once again confirmed the immutability of the strategic course of the party toward the creation of a material-technical base for communism with the goal of achieving maximum satisfaction of the people's constantly growing demands. In addition to this, the congress emphasized that the party and the state have never for a single day lost sight of issues regarding the strengthening of the defensive might of the country and its Armed Forces. As was noted by the congress, the international situation obliges us to do this. This forum of Soviet communists stated that the combat potential of the Soviet Armed Forces represents a durable fusion of their superior technical equipment, military skills and invincible moral spirit.

In realizing the instructions of the congress, Soviet people have done much in the 11th Five-Year Plan to further increase the economic and scientific-technical potentials of our society. A considerable new impulse in this direction was given by the resolutions of the May and November (1982) as well as the June (1983) Plenums of the party's Central Committee. In these resolutions, as always, the tasks in the area of defense have found their reflection. "Henceforth, we will do everything necessary," emphasized Comrade Yu. V. Andropov in his speech at the June Plenum, "for insuring the security of our country, our friends and our allies. We will increase the combat might of the Soviet Armed Forces--a powerful factor in restraining the aggressive aspirations of imperialist reaction."

The comprehensive development of the productive forces of our society and the acceleration of scientific-technical progress in all areas of the economy is steadily leading to a further strengthening of the material base of the Soviet state's defensive capability and to an increase in the combat might of its Armed Forces.

Their modern organization is being carried out on the basis of the latest achievements of domestic scientific-technical thought. Thanks to the day-to-day attention of the party and the people and the Army's and Navy's equipment, organizational structure and system of control and support are at a level which fully satisfies the demands of the times.

However--and we would like to single this out in particular--arms have never been an end in themselves for the USSR. Having been born under the standard of battle for a durable and just peace and for international security, the Soviet state resolutely follows this Leninist course. The economic policies of the Communist Party are directed exclusively toward the solution of the creative tasks before the Soviet people. The Soviet Union is not and has never been a supporter of the arms race nor of dangerous rivalry in the military area. As far as the further improvement of the material foundation of our defense is concerned, the steps which have been taken by our party in this direction are of an imposed nature. Such is the natural response on the part of our state to the intensification of imperialist aggression, American imperialism first and foremost, and to imperialism's aspiration to disrupt the balance in the world and to attempt to solve by force of arms the basic conflict of our age.

The USSR will never permit itself to lag behind in the military area and will be able to stand up for itself, its friends and its allies when necessary. The defensive strength of the Soviet state and the combat might of its Armed Forces serve precisely these noble goals. The Soviet state spends on defense only that which is necessary to insure its reliability. The overseas "hawks," however, must thoroughly understand that the economy, science and technology of our state are able today to create any type of weapon upon which the enemies of peace and social progress plan to pin their hopes.

The historic experience of the CPSU shows that the party's social policies likewise exert a great influence on the strengthening of the defensive might of the USSR and the improvement of the combat readiness of its Armed Forces. These policies generate labor and sociopolitical activity among the masses and instill in them a sense of optimism and solid confidence in tomorrow.

The dynamic and balanced development of all sectors of the economy and the acceleration of the rate of scientific-technical progress exerts the most positive influence on the structure of Soviet society. Social and class differences are being wiped out in a gradual process under way in our country. The number of people in the working class among the overall mass of the employed continues to grow. The qualitative composition of the workers is steadily changing and their practical and political activity is increasing. Considerable changes are taking place among the kolkhoz peasants as well. They are getting closer and closer to the working class with respect to their social character. Our own socialist intelligentsia is acquiring new features. This is leading steadily to the establishment of society's total social uniformity.

A high level of education and culture, relations of genuinely Leninist friendship and the all-round fraternal cooperation of all countries and nationalities in the name of a single goal--the building and defense of communism--are characteristic of the Soviet people as a new, historic community of people formed under the leadership of the party at this stage of mature socialism. Thanks to this, there has

been a considerable expansion and strengthening of the social base of both our common socialist state and its Armed Forces which rely upon the indestructable labor and militant union of the workers, peasants and intelligentsia. The Army and Navy of the Country of the Soviets have been transformed today into a mighty force which serves as a reliable shield against the aggressive designs and aspirations of imperialism. The close ideological unity and moral-political solidarity of the personnel are characteristic of them. Soviet soldiers are united by a common, noble aspiration--to tirelessly strengthen the fatherland's defensive capabilities in the face of the West's military preparations and to improve the fighting strength and combat readiness of the Armed Forces.

The Soviet people, including servicemen, are noted for their political, moral and practical qualities. This is primarily the result of the multifaceted ideological activity of the CPSU. The party directs the spiritual life of the society while organizing the ideological and political education of its workers, instilling in their consciousness and conduct communist ideology and morals and forming the moral ideals and values of the builders and defenders of communism. Its efforts are concentrated on the tasks involving the systematic and comprehensive improvement of developed socialism, the realization of which depends directly upon the level of the workers' consciousness and activity. This is why ideological work, as emphasized by the June Plenum of the CPSU Central Committee, is moving more and more into the forefront and why the role and significance of this work is increasing.

Life itself today presents ideological workers with many complex and crucial problems. Unchanged among these problems has been and continues to be the formation of a scientific Marxist-Leninist world-view--the basis of communist education. It is this which makes the communists, all the workers and the fighting men of the Army and Navy conscientious political soldiers, capable of independently evaluating social phenomena from a class position, of seeing the connection between current tasks and our final goals and of struggling uncompromisingly against bourgeois ideology.

In addition to this, one of the most important tasks of the CPSU in the area of communist education of the people is, as has been in the past, the affirmation in their consciousness of the ideals of Soviet patriotism and socialist internationalism, the Leninist friendship of peoples, pride in the Country of the Soviets and readiness to stand up and defend the achievements of socialism at the first call. It is on this that all ideological workers, including those in the Army and Navy, and the June Plenum of the party's Central Committee orient themselves. They have been called upon to do all the things that depend upon them so that each citizen of our state and every serviceman will everywhere and always recognize himself to be a staunch and hardened warrior in service to the shining ideals of communism and will possess all the qualities necessary to do this.

Thanks to the efforts of the CPSU at this stage of mature socialism, an indestructible sociopolitical and ideological solidarity of Soviet society has been achieved. The ideology of the working class--Marxism-Leninism--has become the ideology of all our people. Characteristic of the Soviet people today is their sense of national pride in belonging to their united socialist motherland, their irreconcilability to bourgeois ideology and morals, their readiness and the will and the skill to build and defend communism.

The Soviet soldiers are the flesh and blood of the people, the loyal sons of their socialist fatherland. They are characterized by the same high ideological and moral qualities as all of our workers. The personnel of the Army and Navy are closely united around the Leninist party and whole-heartedly support its internal and foreign policies. They are always ready to advance weapon in hand to defend their socialist fatherland and repulse an aggressor immediately and decisively.

The richest combat experience of the Soviet Armed Forces and modern military practice undeniably testify to the fact that the chief and deciding source of the might and invincibility of our Army and Navy is the Communist Party's guidance of their entire life and activity. It is this tried and tested, wise and firm leadership that forms the general law and, in addition, the basic principle of Soviet military organization.

Under modern conditions, the role of the party as a guiding and directing force in the armed defense of the socialist fatherland and in the future development and improvement of the military organization of our common socialist state is increasing immeasurably. This is an objective process brought about, in the first place, by the acute increase in the complexity of the international situation and the expansion and deepening of the problems involved in providing a reliable defense for the achievements of socialism; secondly, by the continuing scientific-technical revolution, by the qualitative changes that have taken place in the Armed Forces and the increased demands made upon them in the age of nuclear missiles and other types of destructive weapons; thirdly, by the increase in the importance of the moral factor in modern warfare, the necessity for further improving the ideological and mass-political work with the personnel of the Army and Navy and the intensification of the educational role of the Armed Forces; and fourthly, by the steady internationalization of the tasks and obligations of the Soviet Armed Forces associated with insuring close collaboration and coordination of the efforts of the armies of the states of socialist cooperation in defense of real socialism.

Party-political work is a tested method by which the party can exert an influence on the Soviet soldiers. The content, forms and methods of this work incessantly develop in accordance with the growing demands of time. It essentially is the scientifically based ideological and organizational activity of the military councils, commanders, political organs and party organizations in realizing the policies of the CPSU in the Armed Forces, in educating the soldiers in the ideals of Soviet patriotism and proletarian, socialist internationalism and loyalty to military duty and in mobilizing the personnel to carry out the tasks confronting them in a high-quality manner.

The resolutions of the June (1983) Plenum of the CPSU Central Committee and the speech of Comrade Yu. V. Andropov at the Plenum serve as a reliable indicator in further improving the activity of party-political work. These most important documents are an urgent program for the activities of military personnel in the area of intensifying the communist education of Soviet soldiers.

One of the deciding factors in the party's leadership of the Army and Navy is the Army and Navy party organizations. They act in the very midst of the masses of servicemen and are the political nucleus of military collectives. Through all of their activities, the Army and Navy party organizations contribute to the successful re-

alization of the policies of the CPSU in the area of further strengthening the defensive capabilities of the Soviet state. The resolutions of the June (1983) Plenum of the CPSU Central Committee direct them toward the search for more effective forms and methods of working with the people and toward a comprehensive increase in the leading role of the communists in supporting the high combat readiness of the troops and naval forces.

The party teaches that combat readiness is the chief determining indicator of the invincible fighting potential of our Army and Navy, of the highest moral spirit of the troops and of their technical equipping and training. In this case, combat readiness is based on the fact that, under modern conditions fraught with the possibility of a military attack on us by imperialism, it is important not only that combat readiness be maintained at the necessary level but it must also be steadily increased. Only then will it be impossible for any contingency to catch our troops unaware, and it will then be possible for them to successfully carry out missions to crush any enemy under the most complex conditions. Soviet soldiers, understanding well the international situation that has taken shape, make every effort so that their readiness to repulse the attack of a possible aggressor guarantees that aggressor's immediate and decisive defeat.

The scope of socialist competition under the motto "To Increase Vigilance and Reliably Insure the Security of the Motherland!" and the high intensity of military labor serve as convincing confirmation of this. During the course of combat training, the field, aerial and naval skills of the troops and naval forces as well as the tactical unity of units, ships and formations are improved. The ranks of outstanding trainees and the number of rated specialists are increasing noticeably. All the modern forms of weaponry are being utilized more effectively, and combat training missions in a complex environment are being carried out with ever-increasing quality. New untapped reserves for further increasing the level of combat readiness are likewise being discovered. They are necessary, and the party directs the soldiers to aggressively put them into action, to consolidate successes, to continue further and to achieve the maximum results possible in combat and political training.

The CPSU teaches the personnel of the Army and Navy that the quality of its work depends entirely on the state of discipline, order and organization among the troops. With all its force, the June (1983) Plenum of the CPSU Central Committee stressed that the strengthening of discipline is not a short-term campaign, but painstaking, day-to-day work. Here there can be no "trifles," particularly when considering the multifaceted and exceptional complexity of the missions to be carried out by the troops. The increased missions dictate the necessity for the highest exactingness in evaluating the level of discipline and procedures. This obliges the military councils, commanders, political organs and party organizations to increase the effectiveness of their ideological and mass-political work. They are likewise obliged to achieve the soldiers' strict fulfilment of the requirements of their military oath and regulations as well as to cultivate among them a consciousness of the importance of the strictest discipline and industriousness which form a reliable basis for the achievement of superior results in service and in the steady improvement of the combat readiness of the troops and naval forces.

In the resolution of the CPSU Central Committee "On the 80th Anniversary of the Second RSDRP Congress," it is noted that the path blazed by the Leninist party is a

truly heroic path of struggle and victories. The entire glorious history of the party and its great revolutionary and reorganizational activity of today undeniably testify to the fact that the guidance of the CPSU is the decisive source of economic and defensive might of our common socialist state and the fighting strength of its Armed Forces.

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MATERIALS SUGGESTED FOR TANKERS' DAY REPORTS AND DISCUSSIONS

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[Text] On 8 September 1946, the Kantemirovka Order of Lenin Red Banner Guards Tank Division proceeded in parade formation across the paving blocks of the Red Square in Moscow--the capital city of our motherland. The fanfares sounded, the brass of the orchestra thundered and a cannon salute roared. The Country of the Soviets was for the first time celebrating Tankers' Day, rendering to its glorious defender-tankers a tribute of respect, love and gratitude for the courage, valor and heroism they displayed on the front lines and for their considerable contribution to our historic victory over Fascist Germany and militarist Japan.

Tankers' Day was established as a traditional holiday by a Ukase of the Presidium of the USSR Supreme Soviet on 11 July 1946 in commemoration of the outstanding services of our armored troops and tank builders in the Great Patriotic War. Since that time, every year on the second Sunday in September the Soviet people and their valorous soldiers solemnly honor their loyal tanker-sons, the veteran tank troops and all who participated in reinforcing the fighting strength of one of the major arms of service of the heroic Soviet Army.

This year, Tankers' Day will be celebrated on 11 September in an environment in which our people are diligently realizing the historic resolutions of the 26th CPSU Congress, of the May and November (1982) and June (1983) Plenums of the CPSU Central Committee and of the Eighth Session of the USSR Supreme Soviet. Tankers' Day will occur at a time when socialist competition for the successful fulfilment and over-fulfilment of the tasks of the 11th Five-Year Plan is spreading throughout the country.

Soviet tank troops are the offspring of the Communist Party. The history of their birth and development and of their glorious victories over the enemies of the socialist fatherland on the fields of battle are inseparably tied to the activity of the party and to the name of V. I. Lenin. In the historic days of the Great October of the socialist revolution in Petrograd, the armored forces of the Red Guard actively participated in the seizure of the telegraph, postal system and the bridges over the Neva and in the storming of the Winter Palace. Distinguishing itself particularly was the 1st Mobile Armored Red Guards Detachment, equipped with armored cars sent to revolution headquarters in Smolnyy by workers from an armored-car plant in Izhorsk.

It is from this detachment that the Proskurovsko-Berlinskiy Order of Lenin Red Banner Order of Kutuzov Guards Tank Regiment imeni G. I. Kotovskiy, renowned in battles for the motherland, wrote its chronicles.

The armored forces who participated in battles for the power of the Soviets became the forefathers of the Soviet tank troops. In creating a new type of army--an army called to defend the achievements of the Great October--Vladimir Il'ich Lenin devoted great attention to their technical equipping. He pointed out that he who has the superior equipment, organization, discipline and the better vehicles emerges as the victor in war. For this reason, from the very first days of existence of the Workers' and Peasants' Red Army, the party and V. I. Lenin personally attached great significance to the Army's technical equipping and determined the role and place of the armored forces in the Army. In January 1918, on the initiative of Vladimir Il'ich Lenin, the central organ for the control of all the armored forces of the RKKA was first organized--the Council of Armored Units (Tsentrobron'). The party assigned this organ the tasks of forming and training the armored units and of directing their actions in combat.

Thanks to the energetic efforts of the Council, it was possible to put together the first units of the armored forces in a short period of time, which at that time were called the tank troops. By the end of 1918, there were 23 armored trains and 38 armored detachments numbering 150 armored vehicles in action. All of them actively participated in the battles against the foreign military interventionists in the internal counter-revolution. Cooperating with the infantry, cavalry and artillery, the armored forces of the young Soviet republic courageously routed the enemy. For the heroism and courage, steadfastness and selflessness displayed in fierce battles against the foreign invaders and the White Guards bands of Kolchak, Denikin, Wrangel and Yudenich, many fighting men, commanders and political workers of the armored forces were awarded the Order of the Red Banner--the highest award of the motherland at the time.

After the victorious conclusion of the Civil War, our people under the leadership of the party of the communists proceeded with peaceful economic construction. Following the instructions of V. I. Lenin, "Not relying on the blows already delivered to imperialism, we must at all costs maintain our Red Army in all combat readiness and reinforce its combat capability," the party and the government carried out a number of measures to strengthen the defense capabilities of the country and to increase the fighting strength of the Army and Navy.

The rehabilitation and development of the economy and the successful realization of the Leninist plan for the industrialization of the country made it possible to create a powerful base for the defense industry, including the tank industry. The tank inventory of the armored troops increased several times over. This made it possible for the first time in world practice to proceed with the formation of mechanized formations. By the beginning of 1936, there were 4 mechanized corps in the Red Army, 6 independent mechanized brigades, as well as 15 mechanized regiments in the cavalry divisions. It was during these years that armored units were separated into an independent arm of the service which had a well-grounded theory of combat application and an organizational structure that corresponded to the theory.

Simultaneously with the technical equipping of the troops, the training of the personnel for armored units and formations was intensively conducted in open military

schools and academies for this purpose. In 1932, on the basis of the mechanization and motorization faculty of the Military Technical Academy imeni F. Ye. Dzerzhinskiy and the Moscow Automotive Institute, the Academy of Mechanization and Motorization of the RKKA was organized--today's Military Academy of Armored Troops imeni Mar SU R. Ya. Malinovskiy.

Armored units together with other arms of the service took an active part in defending the borders of the Soviet motherland. Their personnel demonstrated examples of steadfastness and courage in battles on the Chinese Eastern Railroad. The Japanese samurai felt the force of the blows of the Soviet tankers in battles near Lake Khasan and in the area of the Khalkhin-Gol River.

The people retain in their memory the heroic feat performed by Lt V. Vinokurov in the battles at Lake Khasan. When the commander was knocked out of the battle, he assumed command of the subunit. In a heated engagement, the fearless tanker was wounded, yet he did not abandon his vehicle. He fought the samurai until it was no longer possible. For his courage and bravery, Lt V. Vinokurov was awarded the title of Hero of the Soviet Union. The same high title was presented to junior commanders S. Rassokha, A. Timakov, G. Korneyev, K. Pushkarev and Red Army soldier G. Kolesnikov. Many soldiers and commanders were awarded orders and medals.

Brigade commander M. Yakovlev, Sr Lt A. Kukin, Sr Lt N. Zadorin and others were presented with the title of Hero of the Soviet Union for valor and courage in the battles at Khalkhin-Gol River. The 11th Tank Brigade was awarded the Order of Lenin and the 8th and 9th Motorized Brigades were presented with the Order of the Red Banner.

More than 100 Soviet tankers fought in the international brigades in Spain in 1936-1939. In the years before the war, more than 30 tankers earned the title of Hero of the Soviet Union, while many others were presented with medals and orders.

On the eve of the Great Patriotic War, the soldiers of the armored troops, like all of our army, were fitted out with combat equipment that was first-class at that time. This became possible thanks to the further upsurge in the domestic defense industry. The notable Soviet designers and inventors Zh. Ya. Kotin, N. L. Dukhov, M. I. Koshkin, A. A. Morozov, N. A. Kucherenko and other talented engineers and technicians made a worthy contribution to the creation of new examples of combat vehicles. The essentially new combat vehicles developed by them combined powerful armament, shell-proof armor, high maneuverability and the ability to traverse rugged terrain and had diesel motors. The T-34 medium tank became a masterpiece in the history of world tank construction and by rights was called the best tank in the world during the Second World War and in the first postwar years. It considerably surpassed similar types of foreign tanks with respect to quality and for many years determined the path of development in tank construction not only in our country but also abroad.

During these years before the war, the KV heavy tank--the most powerful tank of the first period of the war--entered the Red Army inventory. Through the efforts of the Soviet tank builders, 358 such combat vehicles were produced in 1940. In the first half of 1941, their production was increased, and the armored troops received another 393 KV tanks and 1,110 T-34 tanks.

The treacherous attack of Hitler's Germany on the Country of the Soviets in June 1941 hindered the complete realization of the program planned by the party and the government for the rearmament of the Army and Navy. However, the restructuring of the defense industry for the production of arms and combat equipment which were modern for the time had been carried out in the years before the war and subsequently played a decisive role in the defeat of the foreign invaders. As early as the first months of the war we succeeded in increasing sharply the production of tanks, aircraft, guns and other arms so necessary for the front.

The Great Patriotic War was the severest of all wars our people have ever had to undergo. This war decided the fate of the world's first socialist state and the future of the world civilization, progress and democracy. The war imposed on the Soviet Union by German Fascism was also a severe and thorough test of the fighting strength of the Soviet Armed Forces, including the armored troops.

The aggressor immediately experienced the crushing blows of the Soviet troops. In June 1941, the largest meeting tank engagement of the initial period of the war commenced in the area of Dubno, Rovno and Lutsk. The engagement went on continuously for several days. Although the battles did not lead to the total defeat of the occupying forces, they did play their role. Instead of advancing on Kiev, Hitler's command was forced to turn the main forces of their tank formations in order to repulse the flank attacks of the mechanized corps of our Southwestern Front and utilized its reserves prematurely. As a result, the advance of the German Fascist hordes was brought to a halt by the end of June. This made it possible for the Soviet Command to gain the time necessary to withdraw the Lvov group of forces and prepare the defensive lines on the approaches to the capital of the Ukraine.

Brilliant pages were written into the chronicle of the Soviet tank troops in the Battle for Moscow--the capital of our motherland. It was here at Moscow that the myth of the invincibility of the German Fascist army was dispersed and Hitler's plan for a "lightning war" was conclusively foiled. This historic victory in the battle for the capital of our motherland initiated a fundamental turning point in the course of the war and inspired the Soviet people to new heroic military feats for the glory of the socialist fatherland and reinforced our belief in the inevitable defeat of the dark forces of Fascism.

Many military units and formations distinguished themselves in battles on the fields near Moscow. Among them was the 4th Tank Brigade commanded by Col M. Katukov, a man of talent and initiative, who subsequently became marshal of the armored troops. Shoulder to shoulder with the infantrymen, artillerymen and soldiers of other units, the tankers steadfastly drove back the fierce attacks of Hitler's troops while demonstrating the great power of Soviet patriotism, their limitless love for the fatherland, unwavering loyalty to the cause of communism and outstanding combat training. Katukov's troops defeated a strong enemy not by numbers but through skill. Discovering the directions of the enemy strikes with the help of excellently organized reconnaissance, they carried out swift, concealed maneuvers and blocked the way for Hitler's troops with withering fire. For its heroic feats in combat, the brigade was the first among the tank formations to be transformed into the 1st Guards.

The personnel of the 1st Guards Tank Brigade justified this high title. They carried their combat colors along the roads of war with pride and dignity and made a

worthy contribution to our final victory over Fascist Germany. The brigade earned two Orders of Lenin and the Orders of the Red Banner, Suvorov, Kutuzov and Bogdan Khmel'nitskiy. Hundreds of the brigade's soldiers earned awards of the motherland, while 12 of the bravest of the brave tankers were awarded the title of Hero of the Soviet Union.

The Guards title was likewise conferred upon the 8th and 9th Tank Brigades. Thus the Soviet tank Guards were born in the battles for Moscow. The Guards became a symbol of unbending courage, limitless bravery, invincible fortitude, iron discipline and high organization. They became an example for all the personnel of the Army and Navy, and the example caught on. By the end of the war, 6 tank armies, 12 tank and 9 mechanized corps and 66 tank and 28 mechanized regiments became Guards units.

The capabilities of the armored and mechanized troops were manifested in particular abundance in offensive operations. Acting, as a rule, on the spearheads of our advancing armies, the tankers split the enemy front with slashing blows and emerged in the enemy rear, thus creating the conditions for the encirclement and defeat of large groups. The Battle of Stalingrad was characteristic of this plan. It was the tank and mechanized formations which made the decisive contribution to the success of the counter-offensive. The corps of Generals A. Rodin, A. Kravchenko and V. Vol'skiy needed only about 100 hours to fight their way over a considerable distance into the depths of the enemy defenses and close the circle around 330,000 of Hitler's select German Fascist troops.

In bloody battles with Hitler's invaders, Soviet armored and mechanized troops reached manhood: their combat skills grew, and their organizational structure and methods of application improved. The tank corps were formed in the spring of 1942, and the tank armies a little later. This became possible thanks to the labor valor of the Soviet tank builders and of all rear services workers--the working class, the kolkhoz peasantry and the people's intelligentsia. The Soviet rear services provided the front with everything necessary for defeating the German Fascist invaders in the incredibly complex situation of the war years. During the war years, the USSR produced twice as much combat equipment and weaponry than Nazi Germany for whom, by the way, the industry of all the European states occupied by Germany worked. The Soviet Union alone produced more than 102,000 tanks and self-propelled guns. The motherland fittingly noted the heroic labor feat of the workers, engineers and technicians in the tank industry: more than 9,000 tank builders were awarded orders and medals. Many innovators of industry were presented with the title of Hero of Socialist Labor.

We must also say something about the patriotic movement to collect the monies for the construction of the tanks which commenced on the initiative of kolkhoz workers from the Krasnyy Dobrovolets agricultural cooperative. The initiative was unanimously supported by village workers in Tambov Oblast who, over the course of two weeks, transferred over 40 million rubles to the tank builders. The Tambovskiy Kolkhoznik tank column was built with these funds.

Up until the Battle of Kursk, whose 40th anniversary is being celebrated this year, the history of war had never known such a massive application of armor in one strategic direction. In the engagement in the region of Prokhorovka alone, more than 1,200 tanks and self-propelled guns from both sides took part. This greatest meet-

ing tank engagement of the Second World War, as is well known, took place on 12 July 1943 between the enemy's advancing tank group and the Soviet soldiers who were carrying out a counter-thrust.

The heroism of the Soviet soldiers was massive. The company commanded by Guards Sr Lt A. Kalinin distinguished itself particularly. The tankers attacked the enemy at maximum speed while firing their guns and machine-guns. The will, mastery and discipline of the driver-mechanics and their skill in maneuvering on the field of battle between the shell bursts and the enemy vehicles enveloped in flames made it possible for the company to win the battle almost without losses, destroying 19 tanks, 2 armored personnel carriers and about 2 dozen enemy artillery pieces.

The Battle of Prokhorovka ended in the brilliant victory of Soviet arms. The enemy lost about 400 tanks and assault guns. Overall, the losses to Hitler's forces amounted to about 1,500 tanks. The gigantic battle at the Kursk Bulge broke the back of Fascist Germany and reduced its armored strike forces to ashes.

It is characteristic that the massive application of tanks in the decisive directions grew from operation to operation. Although 774 of our tanks participated in the Battle of Moscow and about 1,500 in the Battle of Stalingrad, more than 6,000 tanks and self-propelled guns were used at the Battle of Kursk. The outflanking and encirclement of large enemy groups were the main forms of maneuvers employed by the Soviet troops. The Korsun-Shevchenko, Belorussian, Yassko-Kishinev and Vislo-Oder operations as well as the battles for Berlin and Prague were the most memorable in this plan. The crowning achievement of the tankers' combat skill was the legendary march through the almost inaccessible Greater Khingan Range and the Gobi Desert that brought total defeat to the Japanese Kwantung Army.

Our motherland placed a high value on the immortal feats of the tanker-soldiers. More than a thousand of them were awarded the title of Hero of the Soviet Union, while 16 of them were awarded the title twice. A total of 250,000 soldiers, sergeants, officers and generals were awarded orders and medals. Five tank army commanders were awarded the title of Hero of the Soviet Union twice for their brilliant successes in the engagements. This high honor was awarded to Marshals of Armored Trps S. I. Bogdanov, M. Ye. Katukov and P. S. Rybalko, Army Gen D. D. Lelyushenko and Col Gen Tank Trps A. G. Kravchenko. The feats of the Soviet tankers on the battlefields of the Great Patriotic War have been written in gold on the pages of the chronicles of the Soviet motherland's combat glory.

Under the wise leadership of the Communist Party, the Soviet people and their valorous Armed Forces won a victory in world history and inflicted a crushing defeat on Hitler's Germany and then on militarist Japan. They defended the honor and independence of the socialist fatherland and saved the people of the world from the threat of Fascist enslavement. The victory of the Soviet Union in the Great Patriotic War convincingly demonstrated the decisive advantages of our social and state order, the indestructible ideological and political unity of the Soviet society and the triumph of Marxist-Leninist ideology, Soviet patriotism and proletarian internationalism.

The results of the past war were a severe warning to aggressors and fanciers of military adventures. The lessons of the war, unfortunately, taught little to the reactionary imperialist circles. Taking refuge behind the false myths of the "Soviet

military threat" and "Soviet military superiority," they are again gambling on a policy "from a position of strength." They are exacerbating the world situation and are intensifying the arms race. The United States is nurturing its most vicious plans for nuclear war and is calculating on winning a victory in such a war. Particular danger is presented by the intentions of the United States and NATO to deploy in Western Europe new American medium-range nuclear missiles as a first-strike weapon. No less dangerous is the plan of the United States Administration to develop space weapons for waging war. All of this is being done to establish world superiority and to place a barrier in the path of progressive change in the world. Of course, these adventurist plans are doomed. "No one is allowed to turn back the course of historical development," stressed the General Secretary of the CPSU Central Committee and Chairman of the USSR Supreme Soviet, Comrade Yu. V. Andropov. "The attempts to 'smother' socialism were foiled even when the Soviet state had just gotten up on its feet and was the only socialist country in the world. Nothing will come of it, especially today."

Under the conditions that have taken shape, the Communist Party, the Soviet state and all our people display high vigilance and devote their constant attention to strengthening the country's defensive capabilities and to increasing the fighting strength of the USSR Armed Forces. Thanks to the achievements of our socialist economy, science and technology, the tank troops, like all the Services of the Armed Forces and arms of service, are fitted out with modern arms and combat equipment. Their organizational structure is constantly being improved and the theory and practice of educating and training the personnel is being developed.

With the appearance of new weapons of war possessing colossal destructive force and with the sharp increase in the effectiveness of antitank weapons, Soviet tank builders have created more powerful armored vehicles which in skilful hands are capable of carrying out the most complex and varied missions. In our modern domestic tanks are reflected the experience of the war, the latest achievements of science and technology and the requirements which result from the conditions of modern battle. Our tanks have excellent armament, reliable defense from various types of weapons, high speed, the ability to cross rugged terrain and long range. They are suited for carrying out combat operations both with the application of conventional weapons as well as under conditions in which nuclear missiles have been employed. Their observation and aiming devices make it possible to drive the vehicle over any terrain under any weather conditions and destroy targets under limited visibility or at night.

The increased might of the Soviet tank troops is not only the result of their first-class combat equipment. Their main strength is the people, with their ideological conviction and skilful mastery of the formidable weaponry entrusted to them. It is people such as this who strengthen the tankers' combat formation. The tankers sense an everyday love for the people and a constant concern for the party. The personnel of the tank troops, boundlessly dedicated to their socialist fatherland, persistently carry out the tasks set before the Armed Forces by the 26th CPSU Congress and the USSR Ministry of Defense. The soldier-tankers piously revere and augment the glorious combat traditions of the front-line soldiers. In the tank troops today, as in all our armies and the Navy, serve the sons and nephews of those who forged the world-historic victory in the Great Patriotic War. In their hearts burns the inextinguishable fire of patriotism, love for the socialist fatherland and loyalty.

alty to their military duty and their military oath. The defenders of the motherland do everything in order to more fully utilize front-line experience in the interests of further increasing the combat readiness of the valorous Armed Forces of the Country of the Soviets.

The Soviet tankers are celebrating their holiday with high achievements in combat and political training and in the strengthening of their military discipline and organization. There are many tank units and formations among the right-flankers in the socialist competition within the ground forces. Take, for example, the Order of Lenin, Red Banner, Orders of Suvorov and Bogdan Khmel'nitskiy Zaporozhye Guards Tank Division commanded by Guards Maj Gen G. Saburov. These Guards tankers were true to the traditions of the front-line heroes and did not spare their lives in defending their motherland from Hitler's invaders. They use their rich front-line experience in all possible ways in the interests of training the tankers to skilfully wage war under conditions that are as close as possible to those found in actual combat. The crews learn to conduct continuous reconnaissance, to carry out actions boldly and decisively, to make daring strikes at the boundaries between defending enemy units and to destroy targets with the first shot or the first burst of fire from the maximum possible range. A persistent campaign is underway in the units to know the weapons excellently, to reduce the time necessary to get the equipment into combat readiness and to successfully carry out their socialist obligations. The personnel bear the major brunt of the training in the field where, under complex conditions similar to those encountered at the front, the tank crews and units stubbornly master the art of the forced march and of decisive, highly mobile actions day and night and persistently learn to defeat a strong and well-equipped enemy.

The soldiers of a Guards tank regiment in which officers A. Ragulin, V. Naydenov and V. Chvanov serve--a unit which holds two state orders--are skilfully carrying out the tasks of combat and political training. The regiment makes effective use of the training time and supports strict observance of regulation procedures. They try to saturate the classes and training sessions with hypothetical situations and thoroughly support the creative and initiative of the organizers and supervisors of the training process. In classes and training sessions and during firing and tactical exercises, the commanders and political workers patiently cultivate among the personnel high moral and combat qualities, discipline and industriousness. They seek to have every tanker become a master of his combat specialty who, in case of necessity, can replace his tank- or gun-crew comrade, can skilfully and precisely destroy targets on the move with short stops at maximum range and capably drive his formidable combat vehicle over any terrain night or day. As is customary, the communists and Komsomol members set an example in training and service and set the tone in socialist competition.

Summer training is now in full swing. Relying on the moral and political upsurge among the personnel, the commander, political workers and party and Komsomol organizations mobilize the tankers to quality execution of their training plans, programs and socialist obligations and to the tireless improvement of their field and tactical-fire training and physical conditioning. They display a special concern for improving the effectiveness of ideological work, for insuring a comprehensive approach to organizing all of the educational work and to achieve the unity of ideological, political, military and moral education. A great impulse to stimulating the activity of the party organizations was the resolutions of the November (1982) and June (1983) Plenums of the CPSU Central Committee and the instructions of Comrade Yu. V.

Andropov on questions regarding the further strengthening of the country's defenses and the combat might of the Soviet Armed Forces, the improvement of party work, the enhancement of the organization and responsibility of the personnel and of all communists for the work with which they are entrusted and the improvement of party and state labor discipline.

The soldier-tankers, like all the personnel of the Army and Navy, closely rallied around the Communist Party and its Leninist Central Committee, together with all the Soviet people unanimously approve and heartily support the internal and foreign policies of the party and the government, constantly improve their military skills and increase their vigilance and combat readiness.

Under conditions of a sharp intensification of military danger, Soviet soldiers in united combat formation with the armies of the fraternal Warsaw Pact nations reliably defend the peaceful labor of the Soviet people and of the peoples of the socialist states and fittingly carry out their patriotic and international duty.

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NEW TEXTBOOK FOR POLITICAL CLASSES REVIEWED

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[Review of book "Na strazhe sotsialisticheskoy Rodiny. Uchebnoye posobiye dlya politicheskikh zanyatiy" [Guarding the Socialist Motherland. A Textbook for Political Classes] edited by A. I. Sorokin, Voenizdat, Moscow, 1983, 319 pages]

[Text] Voenizdat has published a new textbook for the political training of personnel in the USSR Armed Forces: "Guarding the Socialist Motherland." In this book, numbering 20 chapters, the authors convincingly testify to the centuries-long heroic history of our great people and to their glorious combat traditions born in fierce battles with numerous foreign invaders. They disclose the legendary path blazed by the Soviet Armed Forces from the terrible year of 1918 to the present. The pages of the textbook vividly tell of the kind of faith in victory in a just cause with which the soldiers of the Army and Navy fought on the front lines in the Civil and Great Patriotic Wars. They likewise disclose how in these historic battles were revealed completely the moral and combat qualities of the Soviet soldiers that amazed the world, their loyalty to the cause of the Leninist party, their unbending will, courage and heroism, their patriotism and their readiness to perform great feats in the name of the motherland.

The reader learns from the book how powerful our Armed Forces are today. From the bayonet, blade and horse-drawn machine-gun mount to powerful missiles, supersonic aircraft and nuclear submarines--such is the path of their growth and improvement. Soldiers will also find out why the defense of the fatherland and service in the USSR Armed Forces are the honored obligation of the citizen of the Soviet Union and what kind of demands the Communist Party and the Soviet government impose today on the defenders of the country under conditions when the military threat and, first and foremost, the danger of the outbreak of nuclear war through the fault of the imperialist circles of the United States and its allies are increasing. All of this, the authors point out, demands from the personnel of the Army and Navy the highest vigilance and a tireless struggle for the all-round strengthening of the combat readiness of the units and ships.

The study of the material presented in the book will make it possible not only to increase the level of the soldiers', sailors', sergeants' and master sergeants' ideological and theoretical training, but will also arm them with the knowledge of specific methods for strengthening the combat might of the Army and Navy. In this unity lies the obvious worth of this textbook.

The book opens with a chapter about our motherland's heroic past. In this respect, it undoubtedly wins out in comparison with similar publications of years past. The

history of the Soviet people is full of heroic examples testifying to the greatness of their spirit, to their selflessness and to the difficult struggle for their independence. The Soviet people today render what is due to the courageous warriors of Aleksandr Nevskiy and Dmitriy Donskoy, to the soldiers of Mikhail Kutuzov, to the sailors of Pavel Nakhimov and the heroes of Shipka. The USSR Armed Forces have adopted all the best, the advanced and the progressive from the Russian people's past. As the book shows, the courage and bravery of the soldiers who won fame in battle for the independence of the motherland live on in the combat traditions of the Soviet Army and Navy.

The defense of the fatherland from foreign invaders has for all times been considered a sacred cause and has been bequeathed from one generation to the next. However, the authors emphasize, there is no more noble and vital cause than the defense of the socialist motherland--the first state of workers and peasants in the world, a country of developed socialism that is successfully building a communist society.

The Soviet Armed Forces stand on guard of the revolutionary achievements of our people. The book points out the basic stages in their development and provides a clear notion of the essence, characteristics and principles of organizing a new type of army as well as of the place and role of military organization in the socialist society. The authors emphasize the increase in the role of the Communist Party in the direction of the Armed Forces and the necessity of strengthening and developing the military cooperation of the armies from the fraternal socialist countries.

The birth of our Armed Forces is inseparably tied to the name of V. I. Lenin. It was the leader of the party and the founder of the Soviet state, the authors write, who created the harmonious teaching on the defense of the socialist fatherland and who personally guided the combat actions of the Red Army on the front lines in the Civil War. Many of the textbook's pages cover the practical activity of the RKP(b) in the period of the Civil War and military intervention. The socialist army created by V. I. Lenin and the Communist Party is a sturdy bastion against which the hordes of White Guards and interventionist troops were smashed. The victory of the Red Army showed to the workers of all countries the invincibility of this new social order, the mighty power of its military organization and the unconquerable nature of the people guided by the Communist Party.

A special chapter of the book discloses the experience of the CPSU in the strengthening of the Soviet Armed Forces in the years of peaceful socialist construction. This construction was carried out by our people under conditions of a growing danger of a new world war. It was during this time that the party achieved the all-round development of the Army and Navy on the basis of fundamental socioeconomic transformations.

The foresight of the policies and the wisdom of the leadership of the Communist Party, the authors note, consist of the fact that the party foresaw the possibility of imperialist aggression and systematically and comprehensively prepared the country and the people for defense. Although because of the shortage of time and resources the party was not successful in fully implementing the entire complex of important defensive measures, the decisive prerequisites for the successful defense of our motherland were created.

Propagandists and students from group political classes will greet with interest the chapter which reflects the military and labor valor of Soviet patriots in the years of the Great Patriotic War. Under unbelievably difficult conditions, our party, relying on the Leninist teaching regarding the defense of the socialist motherland and its own rich revolutionary experience, managed to mobilize all the people in a short period of time to repulse the strike forces of imperialism. The party turned the country into a united combat camp and insured the continuous growth of the economic, spiritual and military strength of the state.

A great deal of the material shows how these battles fully revealed the remarkable moral-political and combat qualities of our soldiers, their faithfulness to the high ideals of the Leninist party, their unbending courage and their unswerving desire for victory.

In the battles with the German Fascist invaders, as during the entire course of the history of our state, the combat assistant and reserve of the Communist Party was Lenin's Komsomol which augmented its glory through its military and labor undertakings. The book cites examples which reveal the heroism of Soviet youth and graphically testify to the selfless dedication of the young soldiers and commanders to the party and the motherland.

The victory won by the Soviet people in the years of the Great Patriotic War has not removed from the agenda issues regarding increasing the vigilance and unabated attention to the defense of the country. This edited textbook reflects in a step-by-step manner the process of postwar development and the improvement of the Soviet Army and Navy. While insuring the creative energy of the masses of people at the decisive stages of the country's economic and social progress, the CPSU at the same time did not forget about the threat of new aggression on the part of imperialism.

Utilizing the documents of the 26th CPSU Party Congress and the November (1982) Plenum of the CPSU Central Committee, the authors reveal in various factual materials the basic directions for the activity of the CPSU in strengthening the combat potential of the Soviet Armed Forces. The Communist Party is concerned about equipping the Army and Navy with first-class combat equipment, about the high level of training the personnel receive, their political education, their thorough understanding of the noble goals of defending the socialist society and the conscientious fulfillment of their military duty.

The book clearly illustrates the supersonic missile-carrying aircraft, nuclear missile-carrying ships and electronic and other types of modern military equipment that are today at the disposal of the Army and Navy. The Strategic Rocket Forces have made a new stride forward in their combat improvement, while the Ground Forces are constantly being developed. The PVO troops and the Air Force have high combat qualities, and the power of the Navy has grown. The USSR Rear Services and Civil Defense continue to be improved. Border and internal security troops have been further developed.

At the same time, the authors stress in particular that no matter how great the military and technical capabilities of the Army and the Navy, their chief strength is the people in whose hands lie the arms and combat equipment. The people who have mastered their weapons to perfection and who are tempered in the moral-political

and psychological respect will, in the end, decide the fate of the war. It is just this kind of soldier who is being prepared in the Soviet Armed Forces.

The chapters of the textbook which disclose the methods of training soldiers, sailors, sergeants and master sergeants for the armed defense of socialism will be of great interest for the readers. The book examines in detail the basic directions for the execution of this task: the cultivation of a high degree of responsibility among the soldiers for the defense of the motherland, the formation of a sense of soldierly comradeship and the fostering of a high degree of political vigilance. The book covers questions regarding the development of the soldiers' moral and aesthetic perfection and their moral-psychological preparation to overcome difficulties under combat conditions. The chapters of the textbook disclosing the socialist way of life and military duty as well as the active, vital position and high spiritual culture of the Soviet soldier-patriot and internationalist work well for the author's collective.

The primary attention in these chapters is devoted to the explanation of the complex international situation and the demands of the CPSU upon the soldiers of the Armed Forces for maintaining the combat readiness of units and ships at the necessary level. Combat readiness is a most important indicator of the capability of the Army and Navy to provide an immediate and crushing rebuff to an aggressor. It is the concentrated expression of their fighting strength. Combat readiness, stress the authors, is that status of the Armed Forces in which they are capable of repulsing and foiling aggression at any moment and under the most complex conditions, no matter whence it arises and no matter what means and methods the enemy uses.

The authors' collective justifies the necessity and significance of conscientious and selfless military labor. They convincingly show that a soldier or sailor obtains professional knowledge, habits, skills and the ability to act competently and decisively in battle only by demonstrating diligence and persistence in day-to-day training and service, by competing with the masters of military affairs and by steadfastly overcoming difficulties.

The reader's attention is drawn to the tasks of increasing the vigilance of the personnel of the Armed Forces, something to which the Communist Party and the Soviet government attach great significance. In the aggressive plans of the imperialists, a special place is assigned to the "secret war" against the Soviet Union and the other socialist nations. Enemy intelligence directs its main efforts toward obtaining secret military information. The description of the essence of vigilance on the pages of the book is given in integral association with the conduction of combat duty and of guard, internal security, garrison and watch service.

One can find much that is instructive in the articles devoted to the strengthening of military discipline and law and order as well as to the consolidation of the military collectives. On the basis of the documents of the 26th CPSU Congress, the statutes of the USSR Constitution and the resolutions of the November(1982) Plenum of the CPSU Central Committee, the authors explain the growing demands for military discipline. They elucidate its essence and specially stress the fact that the modern stage of development of the Armed Forces and the interests of maintaining combat readiness raise to an unprecedented high level the necessity for the precise organization of literally everything and for the unswerving fulfilment of the demands of military regulations, instructions and the orders of commanders and chiefs.

In an interesting and pithy manner, the book points out the significance of socialist competition as a most important means of achieving new horizons in the perfection of military skills, in the mastery of arms and combat equipment and in the campaign for total fulfillment of socialist obligations and the strengthening of discipline and organization.

This edited textbook provides a picture of the sanguine spiritual life of today's defender of the country and of the aesthetics of military labor and the soldier's way of life. The Soviet Army--flesh of the flesh of its people--has blazed along with them a glorious path of spiritual emancipation and the mastery of the heights of science, culture and art. The spiritual potential of the Soviet Armed Forces is great and diverse. The authors of the textbook describe its characteristics and the methods of utilizing it in working with the personnel.

With the entire content of the book, the authors affirm that the combat successes of the Soviet Armed Forces are profoundly natural. Their main source consists of the wise leadership of the CPSU. The entire life and activity of the personnel in the Army and Navy are today subordinate to the execution of the tasks set by the party and the Soviet people for the reliable defense of socialism.

The book, "Guarding the Socialist Motherland," will render considerable assistance to soldiers, sailors, sergeants and master sergeants in their preparation for political classes and will make it possible for them to expand their knowledge about the heroic history of the Soviet Armed Force. It will likewise enable them to understand the sources of the high moral and combat qualities of the personnel and to be imbued with an even greater sense of responsibility for the defense of the socialist motherland.

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